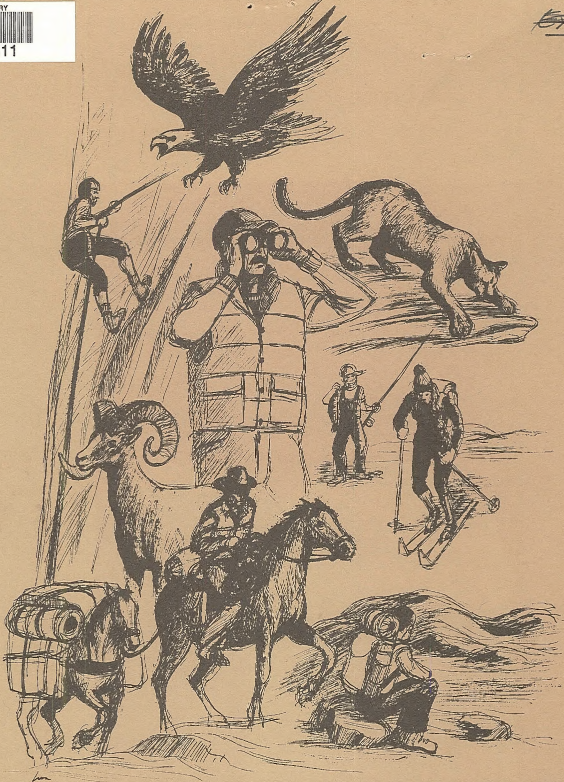
BLM LIBRARY
88005511



NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS

study area proposals

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR • BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT • NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE, MARCH, 1980

IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1449
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

March 1980

Dear Citizen:

The release of this book initiates our last public review and comment period for wilderness inventory in New Mexico. This is a significant step toward our final decision as to which areas in this State will be studied for possible inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. This final decision is scheduled for September 1980.

This book displays, for your consideration, about 1 million acres for proposed Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). You are invited to participate and submit your comments in writing or at the numerous open houses, workshops and public meetings to be held throughout the State. Details of how to comment are found in this book. We need your comments by June 30, 1980.

We began the intensive wilderness inventory last July on 104 units containing 2.2 million acres. Assistance from the public has been a critical factor in our efforts to determine which units contain wilderness characteristics. Once identified, Wilderness Study Areas will be studied in our land-use planning process. When this occurs, your assistance will be requested once again. During the study, the planning system will be used to determine which land uses or combination of uses are the best for any given area.

It is important to remember that all 2.2 million acres involved in the intensive inventory, regardless of present WSA recommendations, are protected from wilderness-impairing activities until officially dropped from further wilderness consideration. This will not occur until September 1980.

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who have provided important assistance to our wilderness inventory in New Mexico. Your continued involvement will help assure our final decisions are fair and accurate.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur W. Zimmerman

Arthur W. Zimmerman
State Director, New Mexico

#7053564

QH 76.5 .N6 N49 1980

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA PROPOSALS

MARCH 1980

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LIBRARY, D-245A
BLDG. 50, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, CO 80225

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part I: WILDERNESS REVIEW IN NEW MEXICO

Introduction 1-1

Overview of BLM's Wilderness Review Process 1-1

Current Status of the Review Process 1-2
- Statewide Inventory 1-2
- Instant Study Areas 1-6
  - El Malpais Natural Area 1-6
  - Guadalupe Canyon Natural Area 1-7
  - Mathers Natural Area 1-8
- Star Lake-Bisti Accelerated Inventory 1-9
- Interim Management 1-9

Public Involvement 1-9
- How to Comment 1-9
- How Public Comments Will Be Used 1-10
- Where To Send Comments 1-11
- Schedule of Public Meetings 1-11

Part II: WILDERNESS STUDY AREA PROPOSALS

Part II Introduction 2-1

Cooperative Wilderness Studies 2-1
- Fish and Wildlife Service 2-2
- Forest Service 2-2
- National Park Service 2-7

Albuquerque District Recommendations 2-13

Socorro District Recommendations 2-47

Las Cruces District Recommendations 2-93

Roswell District Recommendations 2-179

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Definitions 3-1

Appendix B: County Summary Table 3-4

Appendix C: Federal Laws Directing BLM Wilderness Review 3-9

Appendix D: Public Comment Guide 3-11

Appendix E: BLM Addresses 3-13

part 1

WILDERNESS REVIEW IN NEW MEXICO

INTRODUCTION

In this book, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in New Mexico presents recommendations concerning those public lands which contain wilderness characteristics and should, therefore, be studied for possible wilderness designation. It also proposes that certain lands lack wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration. More detailed maps and information concerning these lands are available from BLM offices upon request. BLM's wilderness review process is mandated by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

The "Wilderness Inventory Handbook," which explains the policy, direction, procedures and guidelines for conducting the wilderness inventory of the public lands, was published on September 17, 1978 by the Bureau of Land Management. A second book, "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review," which explains what activities may continue in wilderness inventory units and those activities which may be restricted, was published by the BLM on December 12, 1979. These books are also available at all BLM offices in the State.

OVERVIEW OF BLM's WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS

The BLM's wilderness review process will be completed in three phases as directed by Congress in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). These are: Inventory, Study and Reporting. The inventory phase has two parts, initial and intensive. This wilderness review process is described as follows:

Phase 1 - INVENTORY: This is a two-step process which is designed to identify those areas of the public lands containing specific wilderness characteristics under criteria established by Congress. Such areas are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's).

(a) INITIAL INVENTORY: At this stage those areas of the public lands, which clearly and obviously did not have wilderness characteristics, were identified. Information gained from public comments and existing information were used in making this decision. (The Initial Inventory Decision Book was published on July 9, 1979 and is available at all BLM offices within the State.)

Those areas found not to contain wilderness characteristics were no longer considered for further inventory, and management restrictions of Section 603(c) of FLPMA no longer apply. The remaining lands continued into the next step: Intensive Inventory.

(b) INTENSIVE INVENTORY: Intensive field surveys were conducted on 2.2 million acres of New Mexico public lands. (This book displays the results of this effort.) Those lands judged to contain wilderness characteristics are identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). This means they will be studied to determine their suitability or nonsuitability for wilderness designations.

Once identified as WSA's, management restrictions imposed by Section 603(c) of FLPMA will continue to apply until a final determination or selection as wilderness is made by Congress. Those areas which do not have the required wilderness characteristics are removed from further inventory and wilderness-related management restrictions are lifted.

Phase 2 - STUDY: Once WSA's are identified, they will be studied through the BLM land-use planning system. When this occurs, all possible use of WSA's (e.g., grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral development and wilderness) are evaluated to determine the highest and best use of the area. This study is done with a great deal of public input.

The result of the study phase will be a recommendation by the BLM for each WSA as to whether the area is suitable or nonsuitable for designation as "Wilderness." Management restrictions imposed by Section 603(c) of FLPMA will still apply to all areas recommended as suitable or nonsuitable, as only Congress can make the final wilderness suitability decisions.

Phase 3 - REPORTING: Recommendations concerning suitability made during the study phase will be submitted through the Secretary of the Interior and the President to Congress. Mineral survey reports, environmental statements and other data are submitted with these recommendations. All reports must be submitted to the President no later than October 21, 1991. Only Congress can designate an area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

Statewide Inventory

This book presents the recommendations from the "intensive" step of the wilderness inventory process. The purpose of the "Intensive Inventory" is to identify public land areas with wilderness

characteristics and designate them as Wilderness Study Areas. Lands which are identified as lacking wilderness characteristics are recommended to be dropped from further wilderness consideration. Maps and detailed descriptions of all units undergoing intensive inventory begin in Part II of this book.

Table I traces the New Mexico Wilderness Program from its beginnings and summarized its present status. Table II summarizes the recommendations for those public lands subjected to the intensive inventory process.

Summary Table I

Wilderness Review Process To Date*

Category	Total Statewide		DISTRICT Albuquerque		Socorro		Las Cruces		Roswell	
	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres
Category I: (Sept. 1978) Total public lands inventoried.	346	12,846,966	57	2,604,702	68	1,844,328	158	4,901,353	63	3,496,583
Category II: (July 1979)** Inventory lands not recommended for intensive inventory.	238	10,459,459	35	2,377,353	39	1,230,455	113	3,399,594	51	3,452,057
Category III: (July 1979)*** All lands subject to an intensive inventory.	108	2,387,507	22	227,349	29	613,873	45	1,501,759	12	44,526
Category IV: *** Wilderness study areas identified after accelerated studies.	3	28,520	3	28,520						
Category V: ** Units dropped from further wilderness consideration after accelerated studies.	2	26,242	1	16,642	1	9,600				
Category VI: *** Instant Study Areas	3	119,506			1	115,000	1	4,146	1	360

*This table is a summary of final decisions within the wilderness review process.
**These lands are no longer subject to interim management policy.
***These lands are subject to interim management policy until a final decision concerning their disposal.

Summary Table II

Intensive Inventory Recommendations*

DISTRICT

Category	Total Statewide		Albuquerque		Socorro		Las Cruces		Roswell	
	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres	Units	Acres
Category I: (July 1979) ** Public lands subject to intensive inventory.	100	2,213,239	18	182,187	27	489,273	44	1,497,613	11	44,166
Category II: Public lands recommended for wilderness study area status.	56	872,797	9	100,570	19	336,672	23	409,389	5	26,166
Category III: Public lands recommended for deletion from wilderness review process.	48	1,326,692	12	81,617	8	143,601	26	1,087,784	2	13,690
Category IV: Recommendation Deferred until further notice.	7	13,750			1	9,000	2	440	4	4,310

*This table is a summary of recommendations which are subject to change pending public comment and the State Director's final decision. Interim wilderness management policy will apply to all lands subjected to intensive inventory until they are officially dropped from further wilderness consideration, regardless of our present recommendations. Final decisions are expected in September 1980.

**Due to revised estimates, acreage totals may not correspond with those previously published.

Instant Study Areas

Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires the BLM to make accelerated recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of certain areas of the public lands for designation as wilderness. Section 603(c) of FLPMA mandates that the BLM submit a wilderness suitability report by July 1, 1980 on all primitive and natural areas which were designated as such prior to November 1, 1975. These areas were not identified through the BLM inventory process. They were declared Wilderness Study Areas by an act of Congress. Therefore, the BLM has described them as wilderness "Instant Study Areas," or ISA's.

Each ISA must be reported as either suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System or as nonsuitable. BLM must still determine, subject to public review, if each ISA actually has those wilderness characteristics defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. ISA's which do not have the necessary wilderness characteristics will be recommended as nonsuitable. However, if an ISA does have wilderness characteristics, then a detailed study (including an environmental statement) will be completed. Based on the findings of this study, the environmental statement and public review, recommendations will be made to the President as to the suitability or nonsuitability of the area in question. Wilderness-related management restrictions which are required by law will apply to all ISA's until a decision has been made by Congress.

There are three ISA's in New Mexico: El Malpais, Guadalupe Canyon and Mathers Natural Areas. These areas are currently being studied. The proposed wilderness study recommendations for these areas are briefly described in the following sections:

1. EL MALPAIS NATURAL AREA - Socorro District

   Acreage:

Instant Study Area	....	84,000
BLM contiguous roadless lands	....	31,000
Total	....	115,000

   Description: Situated southeast of Grants and south of State Highway 53, this unit contains some of the youngest topographic features in the United States. It possesses a wide variety of wildlife and several different and unique successions of plants. It has received constant public and scientific interest and study over several decades. The rugged and remote topography and landscape offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and for geological, ecological and cultural research.

Status: One hundred thousand acres of the ISA is proposed as suitable for wilderness designation. This proposed recommendation will be finalized upon completion of the Wilderness Study and Environmental Statement, which will more clearly identify conflicts with wilderness designation.

2. GUADALUPE CANYON NATURAL AREA - Las Cruces District

Acreage:	Instant Wilderness Study Area	3,692
	BLM New Mexico Contiguous lands	454
	BLM Arizona contiguous lands.............	4,814*
	Forest Service RARE II contiguous lands ..	15,850
	Total ..	24,810

*Dependent upon results of the Safford, Arizona BLM District intensive inventory study.

Description: This area is located in the extreme southwest corner of New Mexico and is contiguous both with land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona and to a Forest Service RARE II area (Bunk Robinson Peak #3200) which has been recommended for further planning.

The area's principle feature is a long, narrow canyon which extends into Mexico. Striking scenic values, together with unique species of flora and fauna, are enclosed within the high walls of the Guadalupe Canyon Natural Area.

Status: The Las Cruces District has conducted an intensive inventory on the ISA and concluded the area by itself does not meet wilderness criteria. However, when evaluated with contiguous federal lands, it may meet wilderness criteria and may be suitable for designation as wilderness by Congress. Therefore, the recommendation on suitability of the ISA depends upon the results of a joint study of the entire roadless area by both federal agencies. The report to the President, due by July 1, 1980, will reflect this situation.

The Safford District is conducting an intensive inventory on their contiguous non-ISA lands (Baker Canyon). Their recommendation on Baker Canyon's wilderness characteristics, and the contiguous situation will be forthcoming.

At present, joint study efforts are being conducted by BLM (Las Cruces and Safford Districts) and the Forest Service (Coronado National Forest) as a part of the Coronado National Forest land-use planning process. Recommendations regarding the future management for Bunk Robinson Peak and Whitmire Canyon will be displayed in a draft environmental

impact statement (DEIS). The DEIS will contain various management alternatives for the entire Coronado National Forest and is tentatively scheduled for public review in the fall of 1980. After review, a final management alternative will be selected and displayed in the final EIS, which will be the basis for the Coronado National Forest land and Resource Management Plan. Review and finalization of the EIS will produce a suitability recommendation which will be forwarded to appropriate departments (Agriculture and Interior), the President and finally to Congress for review and decision.

This will resolve the suitability question for both agencies, although it will not clarify how the area will be managed. BLM will resolve management alternatives through their respective Resource Management Plans scheduled for this area. In the interim, both agencies are coordinating management actions under appropriate policy, guidelines, rules and regulations.

3. MATHERS NATURAL AREA - Roswell District

Acreage:	Instant Wilderness Study Area	360
	Contiguous BLM roadless areas	19,520*
	Total ..	19,880

*These lands were identified as obviously lacking wilderness consideration on July 9, 1979.

Description: The Mathers Natural Area is located in Chaves County, 40 miles east of Roswell, and is contiguous with two Bureau of Land Management roadless areas.

Mathers is a small flat grassland which has been excluded from grazing for many years. The Roswell District has conducted an intensive inventory on the ISA and concluded that it is not of sufficient size for wilderness designation and that opportunities for solitude or a primitive unconfined type of recreation are lacking. Contiguous federal lands in roadless areas NM-060-502 and 503 were formally determined not to have wilderness values and were excluded from further consideration during the statewide initial inventory process.

Status: This ISA is recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation, even with contiguous lands being considered. A report to the President, accompanied by a nonsuitable recommendation, will be submitted by July 1, 1980.

Star Lake-Bisti Accelerated Inventory

The Star Lake-Bisti Coal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) explains the impact of coal strip mining on certain lands in the San Juan Basin near Farmington, New Mexico. These lands contained several wilderness inventory units which were inventoried for wilderness characteristics in advance of the rest of the State. This was done to clarify which lands will conflict with potential coal operations at the earliest possible date so that planning could commence. The result of this inventory was identification of the following Wilderness Study Areas:

Bisti	NM-010-057	3,520 acres
Denazin	NM-010-004	19,000 acres
Ah-she-sle-pah	NM-010-009	6,000 acres

Interim Management

During the period of Wilderness Review, and until an area is officially dropped from further wilderness consideration, the BLM is mandated by Congress to manage potential wilderness lands so as not to impair their suitability for wilderness designation by Congress. This is referred to as "interim management." That is, management until a wilderness decision is made. Interim management is discussed in detail in a recently released document entitled Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review. This document is available at any BLM office.

It is important to remember that all lands undergoing intensive wilderness inventory will be managed according to the interim management policy until officially dropped from further wilderness consideration, regardless of their present recommendation in this book.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

How to Comment

The Wilderness Study Area recommendations displayed in this book are recommendations only, and we invite your participation in formulating the final decision. The release of this book marks the beginning of a 90-day public review and comment period. This comment period will end on Friday, June 30, 1980.

If you wish to participate in this comment period, it is important to keep in mind the type of information which will be useful to the BLM.

During the intensive wilderness inventory, roadless areas were closely inspected to determine whether or not the area contained wilderness characteristics. These wilderness characteristics are identified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. These characteristics include size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and supplemental values such as unique geologic features, high scenic values, cultural sites, etc.

Although these characteristics have been identified in the Wilderness Act and defined in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, some degree of subjective judgment is frequently required. Checking these BLM judgments is an important function of public involvement during wilderness inventory.

During this public review period, comments should address the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics in a given roadless area. Comments on resource conflicts will be used during wilderness study to help determine the highest and best use for the public lands in question.

You may submit your comments at anytime prior to June 20, 1980. We prefer you send written comments to the New Mexico State Office in Santa Fe. However, you may submit your comments to any BLM office and they will be relayed to the appropriate offices. You are also invited to submit comments at any of the numerous open houses and public meetings held throughout the State. A list of dates and locations of these public meetings is included on the following page. A comment sheet and guide are provided for your convenience in the Appendix.

<u>How Public Comments Will be Used</u>

All public comments, written and oral, will be analyzed in the New Mexico State Office in Santa Fe. This will be done by an inter-district team. Oral comments will be transcribed and treated as a written input. The analysis will not involve "vote counting." Comments will be analyzed for the information they contain relevant to wilderness characteristics of specific units. Large numbers of letters or petitions which merely support or oppose wilderness study status, without supporting reasons, are of little use. However, a single letter or testimony which offers new information on the wilderness characteristics of a unit could result in a change in its recommendation for wilderness study status.

Information on other land uses or conflicts with wilderness will not be considered until the study phase of the wilderness review. This type of information will have no bearing on identification of Wilderness Study Areas.

Where to Send Comments

You are encouraged to send your comments to:

WILDERNESS
New Mexico State Office
P. O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Copies of all comments will be forwarded to the appropriate District Offices.

Comments must be received in the State Office in Santa Fe by June 30, 1980. Comments received after that date may not be included in the analysis.

Schedule of Public Meetings

There will be a series of open houses and public meetings held throughout the State during the next 90 days. An open house is designed primarily to display and explain what the BLM is proposing. A public meeting is designed to receive public testimony.

The following is a schedule of where these meetings will be held in New Mexico. You are encouraged to contact the appropriate District Office prior to the scheduled event to clarify what to expect and assure no unexpected scheduling changes occurred.

Roswell District

Open House	April 1	Public Library 301 N. Penn Roswell, NM 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
	April 2	Public Library Halaqueno Park Carlsbad, NM 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Public Meeting	May 6	Public Library 301 N. Penn Roswell, NM 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	May 7	Public Library Halaqueno Park Carlsbad, NM 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Las Cruces District

Open House	April 9	Lordsburg Civic Center 313 East 4th Street Lordsburg, NM 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
	April 7	Corbett Center Dona Ana Rm.-Level 3 (West) New Mexico State University University Ave. & Locust Las Cruces, NM 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	June 2	City Hall Conference Room 511 10th Street Alamogordo, NM 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
	June 4	Lordsburg Civic Center 313 East 4th Street Lordsburg, NM 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
	June 5	Morgan Hall 109 E. Pine Deming, NM 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

To facilitate public review of the Wilderness Study Area Recommendations, interested citizens are invited to study the Las Cruces District Intensive Inventory reports in the following libraries:

Branigan Memorial Library, 200 E. Picacho, Las Cruces, NM

New Mexico State University Library, Frenger Street, Las Cruces, NM

Alamogordo Public Library, 920 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo, NM

NMSU, Alamogordo Branch Library, N. Scenic Drive, Alamogordo, NM

Deming Public Library, 301 South Tin Ave., Deming, NM

Lordsburg-Hidalgo Public Library, 208 E. Third Street, Lordsburg, NM

Silver City Public Library, 515 West College Ave., Silver City, NM

Miller Library, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM

Truth or Consequences Public Library, 501 McAdoo, Truth or Consequences, NM

El Paso Public Library, 501 N. Oregon, El Paso, TX

Albuquerque District

Open House	April 4	Albuquerque Convention Center Acoma Room Albuquerque, New Mexico 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	May 27	Albuquerque Convention Center Acoma Room Albuquerque, New Mexico 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

To facilitate public review of the Wilderness Study Area Recommendations, Intensive Inventory reports have been placed in the following libraries:

University of New Mexico, General Library, Albuquerque, NM

Albuquerque City Library, 501 Copper Avenue, NW, Albuquerque, NM

Santa Fe Public Library, 121 Washington Ave., Santa Fe, NM

Farmington Public Library, 302 N. Orchard Ave., Farmington, NM

Gallup Public Library, 115 West Hill Ave., Gallup, NM

Grants Public Library, 525 West High, Grants, NM

Socorro District

Open House	April 4	Albuquerque Convention Center Zuni-Tesuque Room Albuquerque, New Mexico 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
	April 9	Masonic Lodge 912 Leroy Place, NW Socorro, New Mexico 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

	April 10	Community Room Grants State Bank 824 W. Santa Fe Ave. Grants, New Mexico 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	May 27	Albuquerque Convention Center Isleta Room Albuquerque, New Mexico 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
	May 29	Masonic Lodge 912 Leroy Place, NW Socorro, New Mexico 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

part 2

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA PROPOSALS

PART II INTRODUCTION

The following section displays the results of the intensive wilderness inventory in New Mexico. The summary inventory results of each unit are discussed with a map of the unit on the facing page. Some units are recommended for Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status, and some are not. The following narratives are brief summaries of information available at the various district offices. Each district has a detailed intensive inventory report and a permanent documentation file for each unit. These documents may be inspected at the district offices or at the numerous libraries listed in this section.

The following summary narratives are grouped by District. Each narrative describes the unit, summarizes the wilderness characteristics, and displays the WSA recommendation. Narratives should be reviewed with inventory unit boundaries, as shown on the accompanying maps. Both the narrative and map for a given unit contain a unit number. All New Mexico wilderness inventory unit numbers begin with the prefix "NM." New Mexico BLM districts are identified as follows:

010 Albuquerque
020 Socorro
030 Las Cruces
060 Roswell

The last three inventory unit numbers refer to a specific inventory unit within each district.

When all these letters and numbers are combined, a specific unit may be identified. For example, NM-030-065 is in the Las Cruces District (030) and is the Las Uvas Mountain Unit (065).

COOPERATIVE WILDERNESS STUDIES

During the wilderness inventory, the BLM identified roadless areas of any size that were adjacent to roadless areas of another federal agency with authority to study wilderness. BLM then met with the agency involved to determine if they wished to conduct a cooperative wilderness study on the single roadless area.

In New Mexico, the BLM has roadless lands adjacent to roadless lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service.

Fish and Wildlife Service

The Little Yucca roadless area, NM-020-053, lies along the eastern boundary of the Little San Pascual Wilderness, located in the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. (See page 2-82.) Study of Little Yucca will be closely coordinated with the Wildlife Refuge.

U. S. Forest Service

The U. S. Forest Service has recently completed its second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) in New Mexico. The result of this effort was that each National Forest roadless area was recommended for wilderness, nonwilderness, or further planning. The BLM identified public land roadless areas of any size which were adjacent to U. S. Forest Service roadless areas recommended for wilderness or further planning. The BLM did not identify roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres which were adjacent to "nonwilderness" RARE II recommendations. The BLM also identified situations where the BLM had a roadless area greater than 5,000 acres adjacent to a small (less than 5,000 acres) Forest Service roadless area.

The U. S. Forest Service and BLM have agreed that a single cooperative wilderness study should be conducted on single roadless areas administered by both agencies and where the U. S. Forest Service portion is not already designated nonwilderness. The BLM and U. S. Forest Service are presently working together to develop the procedures for these studies.

The following are lists of situations where BLM roadless areas are adjacent to National Forest roadless areas. These lands are recommended to be studied for possible wilderness designation with the adjacent National Forest roadless area.

BLM roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres which are adjacent to the National Forests:

Navajo Peak NM-010-059 (See map and narrative page 2-36 .)	7,750 acres
Devil's Backbone NM-020-047A (See map and narrative page 2-76 .)	9,200 acres
Continental Divide NM-020-044 (See map and narrative page 2-72 .)	74,240 acres

BLM roadless areas adjacent to the National Forests which are less than 5,000 acres in size: (Many of these areas have no narratives, since the wilderness characteristics depend on adjacent Forest Service roadless areas.)

Manzano Contiguous	NM-010-092	845 acres
Offspring	NM-020-065	3,600 acres

This small unit is adjacent to the Manzano Wilderness. An additional portion of the Manzano Contiguous lies in the Socorro District. This unit was identified by Socorro as Offspring, NM-020-065. Offspring was found to be impacted with range developments and is recommended dropped from further wilderness consideration.

Devil's Reach	NM-020-047B	800 acres

(See map and narrative page 2-76.)

Magdalena	NM-020-048A	3,000 acres
	NM-020-048B	320 acres
	NM-020-048C	400 acres

(See map and narrative page 2-78.)

Sacramento Escarpment	NM-030-104B	2,500 acres

This is a long narrow unit constituting the face of the Sacramento Escarpment near Alamogordo, New Mexico. The State Parks Department is initiating development in Dog Canyon adjacent to the unit.

Bug Scuffle Canyon	NM-030-165	1,830 acres

This unit is separated by a road from the Sacramento Escarpment Unit (NM-030-104B). It contains a portion of the Sacramento Escarpment in the extreme northern portion of the unit.

Rim	NM-030-124	3,853 acres

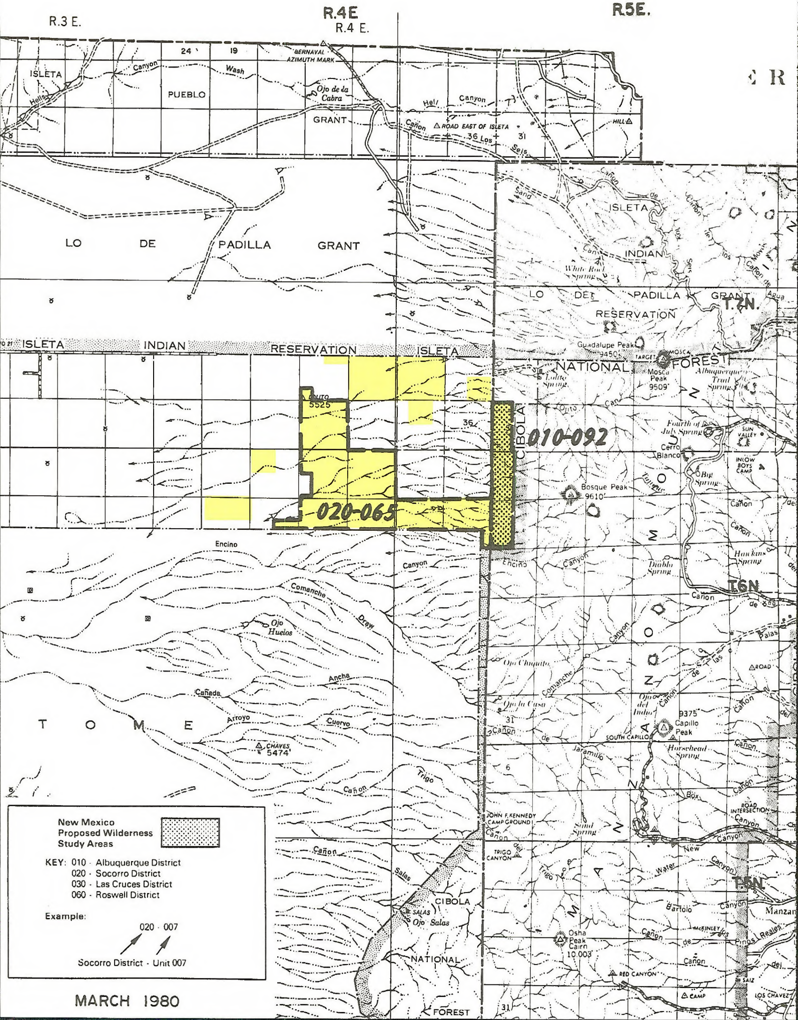
This unit lies against the western edge of the Guadalupe Mountains in the Lincoln National Forest. It includes extremely steep slopes against the Forest and extends through the foothills and onto some flats. The boundary has been adjusted to exclude substantially noticeable range developments.

Pup Canyon	NM-030-115	1,920 acres

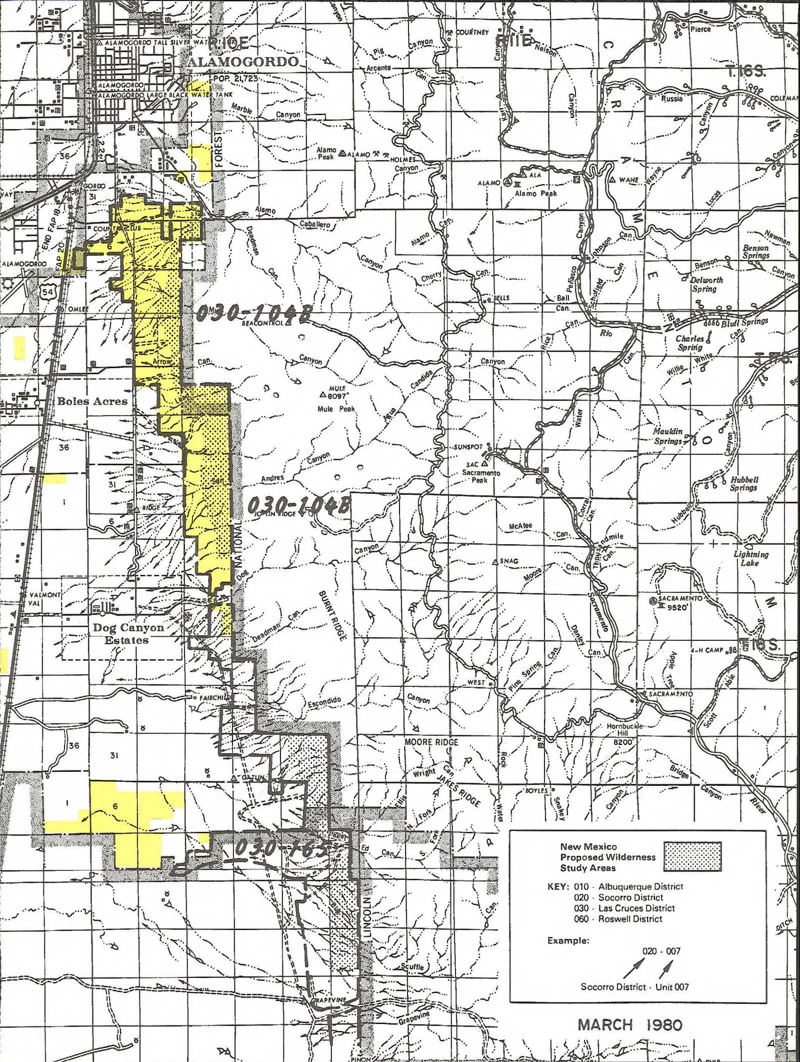
This unit is also against the western edge of the Guadalupe Mountains just south of Rim (above).

Little Dog	NM-030-114	4,787 acres

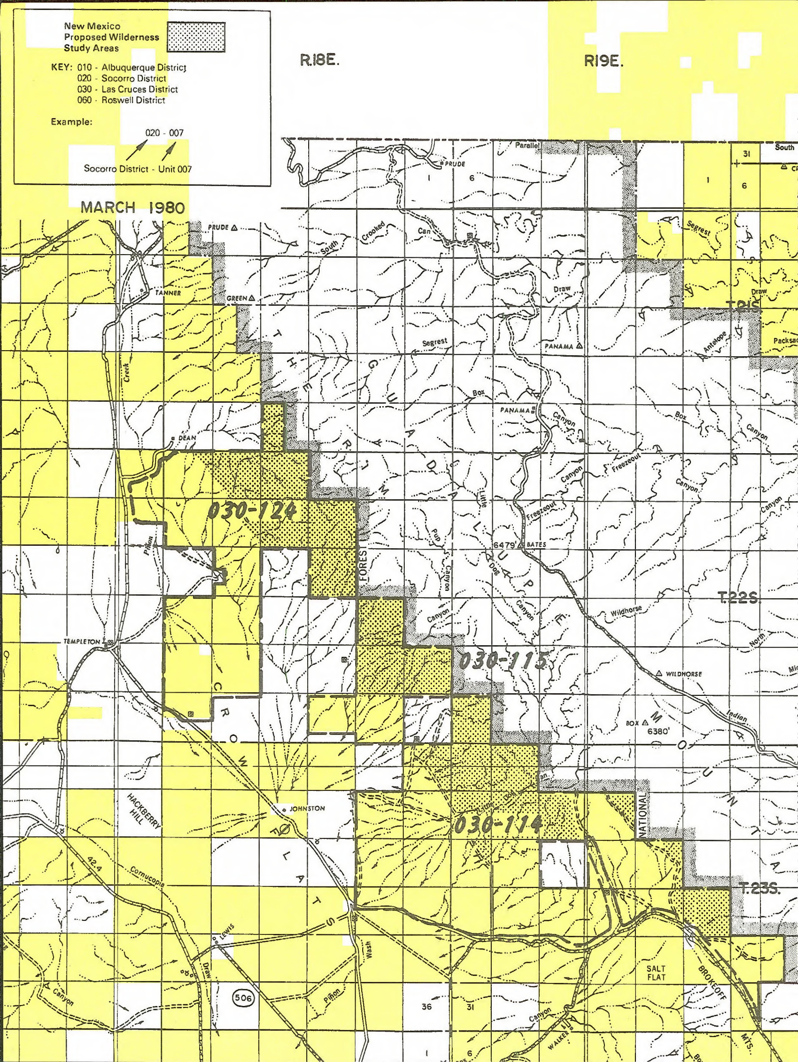
(See map and narrative page 2-168.)


R.3 E.
R.4E
R.4 E.
R5E.
ISLETA
PUEBLO
GRANT
Ojo de la Cabra
LO DE PADILLA GRANT
ISLETA INDIAN RESERVATION
ISLETA
LO DE PADILLA GRANT RESERVATION
NATIONAL FOREST
CIBOLA
010-092
020-065
Guadalupe Peak
Mosca Peak 9509'
Bosque Peak 9610'
Cerro Blanco
Capillo Peak
9375
Osha Peak Cairn 10,003'
T.7N.
T6N
T5N
Encino
Comanche
Draw
Ojo Huelos
Ancha
Cañada
Arroyo
Cuervo
T O M E
CHAVES 5474'
Trigo
Cañon
Salas
CIBOLA
NATIONAL
FOREST
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980



ALAMOGORDO
POP. 21,723
R10E
R11E
T.16S.
T.17S.
T.18S.
030-104B
030-104B
030-165
Boles Acres
Dog Canyon Estates
Mule Peak
Sacramento Peak
SUNSPOT
Alamo Peak
MOORE RIDGE
BURNT RIDGE
JAKES RIDGE
Lightning Lake
Hornbuckle Hill 8200'
SACRAMENTO 9520'
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.18E.
R19E.
T.21S.
T.22S.
T.23S.
030-124
030-115
030-114
PRUDE
TANNER
GREEN
DEAN
TEMPLETON
JOHNSTON
HACKBERRY HILL
PANAMA
BATES
6479'
WILDHORSE
BOX
6380'
SALT FLAT
BROKEOFF MTS.
THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS
CROW FLATS
NATIONAL FOREST
Cornucopia
Segrest
Freezeout
Wildhorse
Indian
Antelope
Crooked
Box
Canyon
Draw
Creek
Piñon
Lewis
Wash
Little Dog
Pup
Parallel
South
Packsad
North
WALKER
424
506
36
31
1
6

There are three small roadless tracts which are adjacent to U.S. Forest Service RARE II Unit 3-079 Guadalupe Escarpment. This RARE II unit was recommended for wilderness designation and is presently before Congress for action. These BLM units are Devil's Den (NM-030-145), 320 acres, McKittrick Canyon (NM-030-146), 120 acres and Lonesome Ridge/Calamity Cove (NM-060-801/814), 2,443 acres.

A decision as to whether or not these areas will be designated as Wilderness Study Areas will be deferred until Congress acts on the adjacent U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposal. However, the recommendation is as follows: If Congress designates the Guadalupe Escarpment as wilderness and if the three BLM tracts are adjacent to designated wilderness, they will become WSA's and will be studied as possible additions to the Guadalupe Escarpment wilderness. If Congress rejects the U.S. Forest Service wilderness proposal, they will be dropped from further wilderness consideration since they would no longer meet the size requirements for wilderness study. If this recommendation is approved, the status of these units will depend upon whether or not Congress approves the Guadalupe Escarpment wilderness proposal and will be decided without further public comment.

National Park Service

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK - There are five small BLM roadless areas adjacent to the northern boundary of Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CCNP). All five units are in the Roswell District.

Fawn Valley	NM-060-820	700 acres

This unit, although less than 5,000 acres in size, was selected for intensive inventory because it is contiguous with an area in CCNP being restudied for possible wilderness preservation. The National Park Service has been mandated by Congress to restudy certain areas in the Park for possible wilderness consideration. These areas consist of all lands not currently designated as wilderness in the Park.

Recommendation, Fawn Valley Unit:

If the Park Service recommends wilderness designation for their lands which are contiguous with Unit 820, then this area will be evaluated as a Wilderness Study Area. However, if the Park Service does not make a positive wilderness recommendation for their contiguous lands, then this unit will not meet the size requirements of the Wilderness Inventory Handbook (Blue Book) and will be dropped from the wilderness review process.

Until the Park Service restudy is completed, this unit will be protected in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management's Interim Management Policies.

Lechuguilla Canyon NM-060-803 1,167 acres

This unit was selected for intensive inventory because it is contiguous with designated wilderness in CCNP. The area is also adjacent to lands in CCNP which are being studied for possible wilderness designation.

During the intensive inventory, a road was found which bisects this unit from east to west. This road divided the unit into two areas which contained 1,167 acres in the south and 2,033 acres in the northern part. Only the southern part of this unit was found to contain the necessary requirements for designation as a Wilderness Study Area. Unit 803 is poorly aligned with existing wilderness in CCNP, since it is only contiguous along the southeast corner. A recommendation for this unit to enter the Wilderness Study phase would depend on the Park Service enlarging existing wilderness in the Park so that Unit 803 would better align and make practicable its preservation as potential wilderness.

Recommendation, Lechuguilla Canyon Unit:

The decision to consider lands with wilderness characteristics in Unit 803 for Wilderness Study will be deferred until the Park Service has completed their study. If that study does not recommend additional wilderness adjacent to Unit 803, it will be dropped from the wilderness review process. If contiguous Park lands are proposed for wilderness designation, then sufficient wilderness characteristics would be present to designate this unit as a Wilderness Study Area. Until the Park Service restudy is completed, this unit will be protected in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management's Interim Management Policies.

Mudgetts NM-060-819/819A 2,941 acres

This unit was identified because it was roadless and adjacent to designated wilderness in Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Recommendation, Mudgetts Unit:

The identified portions of this unit qualifies for Wilderness Study. It is a logical topographic extension of designated wilderness. It is separated from Carlsbad Caverns National Park only by a fence line. The National Park Service and BLM will work together to determine if a wilderness boundary adjustment is beneficial to management of the area when adjacent BLM lands are considered.

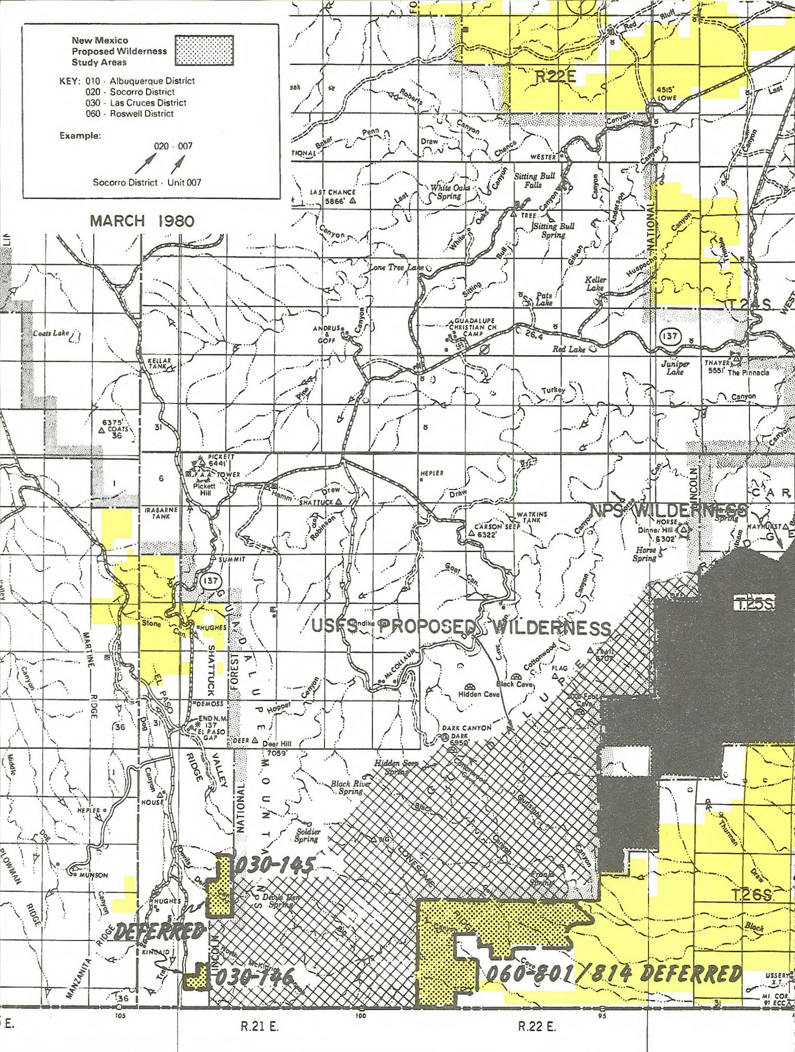
Jurnigan NM-060-802 4,800 acres

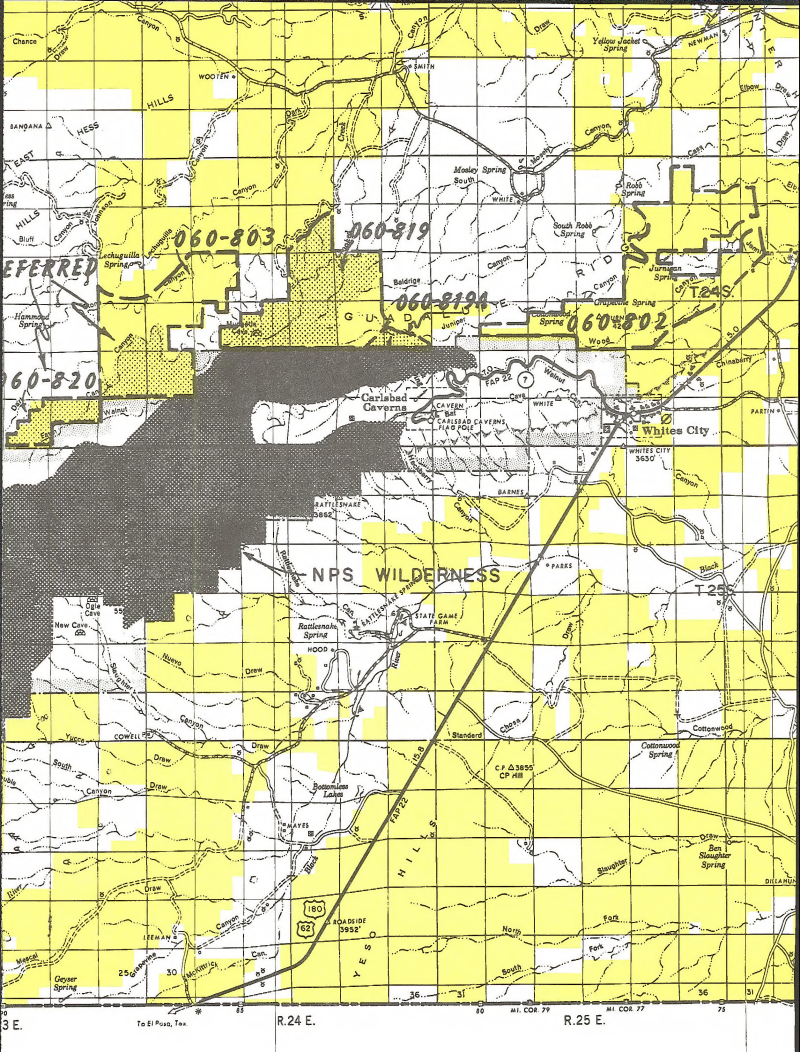
This unit was selected for intensive inventory because it is contiguous with an area in CCNP being restudied for possible wilderness preservation. The National Park Service has been mandated by Congress to restudy non-wilderness portions of the Park for possible wilderness consideration.

Recommendation, Jurnigan Unit:

The Jurnigan Unit (NM-060-802) does not meet the basic requirements for selection as a Wilderness Study Area. This is due to the unit's lack of the following wilderness characteristics: solitude; opportunity for primitive and unconfined types of recreation; and size. External imprints of man also affect the apparent naturalness and configuration of this unit and severely detract from wilderness qualities. Normally, the imprints of man outside of a roadless unit are not considered during wilderness inventory. However, due to this area's small size, configuration, and placement of non-federal lands, outside imprints could not be ignored while assessing wilderness characteristics.

GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK - There is one BLM roadless area which lies aganist the northern boundary of the designated wilderness in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park. This unit is the Brokeoff Mountains NM-030-112A/112B, which is recommended for wilderness study. Wilderness study for the Brokeoff Mountains will consider the adjacent designated wilderness and National Park Service personnel will be consulted. Any future management of the Brokeoff Mountains will be coordinated with Guadalupe Mountains National Park. For the WSA recommendation and map on the Brokeoff Mountains, see page 2-166 .


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
USFS PROPOSED WILDERNESS
NPS WILDERNESS
030-145
030-146
DEFERRED
060-801/814 DEFERRED
R22E
T24S
T25S
T26S
R.21 E.
R.22 E.
GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST
Sitting Bull Falls
Lone Tree Lake
GUADALUPE CHRISTIAN CH. CAMP
Red Lake
Juniper Lake
PICKETT 6441'
Pickett Hill
SUMMIT
EL PASO GAP
END N.M. 137
Deer Hill 7059'
DARK CANYON
Hidden Cave
Black Cave
Devils Den Spring
Soldier Spring
Black River Spring
Hidden Seep Spring
Coats Lake
MARTINE RIDGE
MANZANITA RIDGE
PLOWMAN RIDGE
SHATTUCK VALLEY RIDGE
LONESOME RIDGE
CARSON SEEP 6322'
WATKINS TANK
Dinner Hill 6302'
Horse Spring
Keller Lake
Pats Lake
LAST CHANCE 5866'
Sitting Bull Spring
White Oaks Spring
THAYER 5551' The Pinnacle
MUNSON
HUGHES
KINCAID
HEPLER
DEMOSS
McCOLLAUM
IRABARNE TANK
KELLAR TANK
ANDRUS & GOFF
WESTER
4515' LOWE



060-803
060-819
060-819A
060-802
060-820
EFERRED
NPS WILDERNESS
T.24S.
T.25S.
Carlsbad Caverns
Whites City
WHITES CITY 3630'
CARLSBAD CAVERNS FLAG POLE
FAP 22
Walnut
Canyon
GUADALUPE RIDGE
Chance
Draw
WOOTEN
SMITH
HILLS
BANOANA
HESS
EAST
Yellow Jacket Spring
NEWMAN
Elbow
Mosley Spring
South
WHITE
Robb Spring
South Robb Spring
Jurnigan Spring
Grapevine Spring
Cottonwood Spring
Lechuguilla Spring
Hammond Spring
Baldrige
Juniper
Wood
Chinaberry
PARTIN
BARNES
RATTLESNAKE 3862'
PARKS
Ogle Cave
New Cave
Rattlesnake Spring
STATE GAME FARM
HOOD
Nuevo
Drew
Slaughter
Canyon
Yucca
COWELL
South
Draw
Bottomless Lakes
MAYES
Standerd
Chosa
C.P. △3855' CP Hill
Cottonwood
Cottonwood Spring
Black
Ben Slaughter Spring
DILLAHUN
YESO HILLS
180
62
ROADSIDE 3952'
LEEMAN
North
Fork
South
McKittrick
Grapevine
Mescal
Geyser Spring
River
25
30
36
31
85
80
75
MI. COR. 79
MI. COR. 77
To El Paso, Tex.
3 E.
R.24 E.
R.25 E.

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT

L. Paul Applegate, District Manager

San Ysidro NM-010-12/13 15,360 acres

Unit Description

San Ysidro is located approximately 12 air miles west of Cuba, New Mexico in Sandoval County. This inventory unit contains broken mesas, moderately sloped hills and portions of the San Ysidro Valley. NM-010-12/13 is vegetated with short grasses and sagebrush in its southern valley portions and in scattered pastures throughout the remaining area and numerous stands of mixed ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper. The Continental Divide crosses the northern ¼ of the unit.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, San Ysidro has been found to contain 9,250 acres of public land and a 120-acre private inholding.

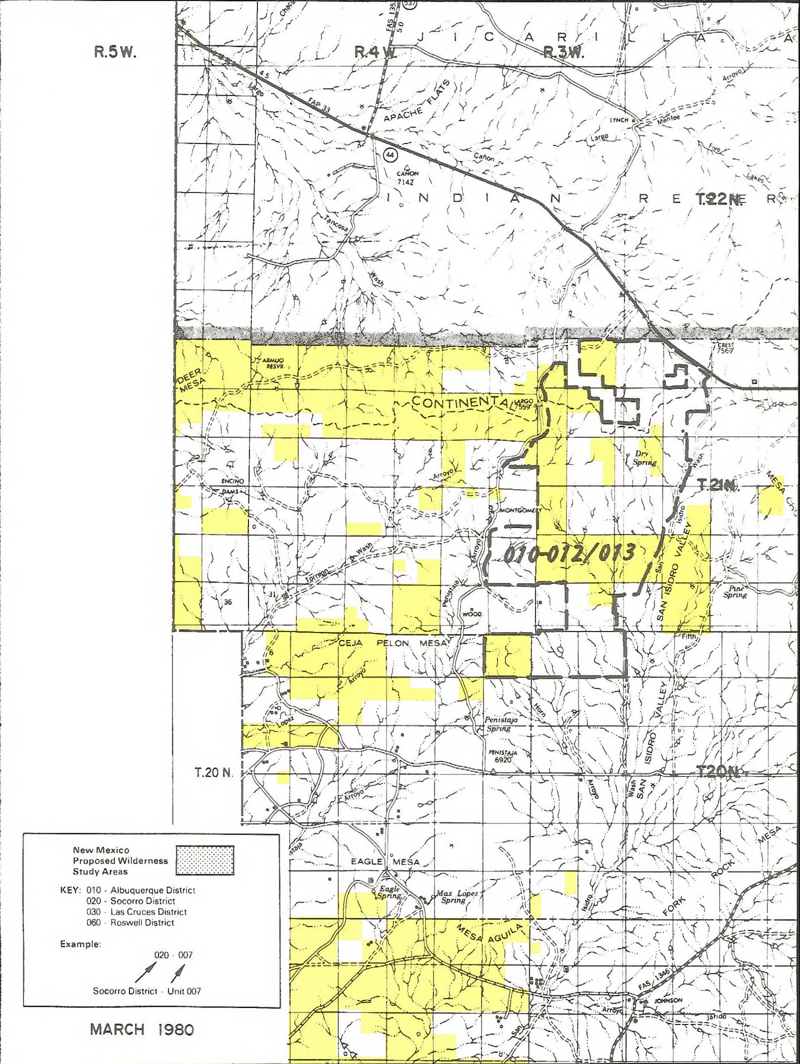
NATURALNESS: Intensive Inventory Unit, NM-010-12/13, San Ysidro, has been heavily impacted by man-made features, the majority of which are range improvements, and by an existing network of vehicular ways and jeep trails. The unit contains six substantially noticeable man-made features and 31 additional features which were judged to be substantially unnoticeable. A network of 22 vehicular ways or jeep trails were found within the unit.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit NM-010-12/13 San Ysidro, provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude in its northern portions. The combination of the dense vegetative cover and the topography within the portion of the area provide outstanding opportunities for users to avoid the sights and sounds of others. San Ysidro does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: San Ysidro, NM-010-12/13, contains excellent scenic vistas along the Continental Divide and one abandoned homestead which may or may not be of historic value.

Recommendation

This area is not natural and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R.5W.
R.4W.
R.3W.
J I C A R I L L A
APACHE FLATS
LYNCH
CAÑON
7142
I N D I A N R E S E R
T.22N.
CONTINENTAL
LARGO 7559
DEER MESA
ARMIJO RESVR.
CREST 7569
Dry Spring
T.21N.
ENCINO DAMS
MONTGOMERY
010-012/013
SAN ISIDRO VALLEY
Pine Spring
WOOD
CEJA PELON MESA
Penistaja Spring
PENISTAJA 6920
T.20 N.
T.20N.
EAGLE MESA
Eagle Spring
Max Lopez Spring
MESA AGUILA
SAN FORK ROCK MESA
JOHNSON
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Chijuilla NM-010-15 11,500 acres

Unit Description

Located approximately 2 miles west of Cuba, New Mexico, the area is bordered to the south by State Highway NM-197, by U.S. Forest Service land to the east and by graded and maintained roads to the west and north. Chijuilla consists of a broad, grassy plain with scattered pinyon-juniper stands bordered by high, broken mesas which are vegetated with sagebrush, pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, this unit has been found to contain 10,600 acres of public land and 640 acres of private inholdings.

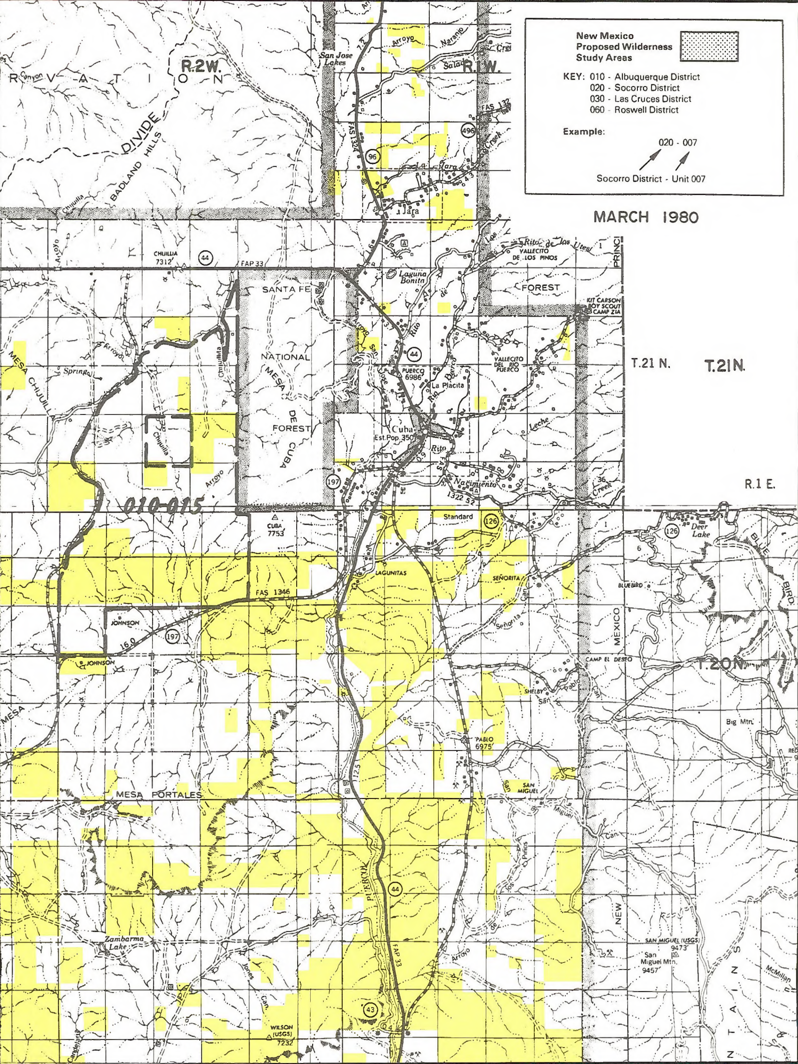
NATURALNESS: Inventory Unit NM-010-15 has been significantly altered by man-made features and impacts to the point that it no longer can be considered as natural in appearance. The area contains two maintained roads which serve as "cherry stem" boundary modifications, 28 ways or jeep trails, 35 retention dams or stock ponds, and 31 other man-made features including old chainings, timber harvesting impacts, fencelines, a drill pad, metal watering troughs and seismic shot holes.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit NM-010-15, Chijuilla, provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The combination of the dense vegetative cover and the topography within the northern portion of the area provide outstanding opportunities for users to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Chijuilla does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Chijuilla inventory unit contains historical homestead ruins and excellent scenic vistas from the tip of Chijuilla Mesa-east.

Recommendation

Chijuilla is not natural and therefore does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.2W.
R.1W.
R.1 E.
T.21 N.
T.21N.
T.20N.
010-015
SANTA FE
NATIONAL
FOREST
MESA DE CUBA
Cuba
Est.Pop. 350
La Placita
PUERCO 6986
Laguna Bonita
San Jose Lakes
La Jara
CHUILLIA 7312
VALLECITO DE LOS PINOS
VALLECITO DEL RIO PUERCO
KIT CARSON BOY SCOUT CAMP ZIA
CUBA 7753
Standard
LAGUNITAS
SEÑORITA
JOHNSON
FAS 1346
FAP 33
Deer Lake
BLUEBIRD
CAMP EL DESEO
SHELBY
PABLO 6975
SAN MIGUEL
Big Mtn.
MESA PORTALES
MESA CHIJUILLA
BADLAND HILLS
DIVIDE
Zambarma Lake
WILSON (USGS) 7232
SAN MIGUEL (USGS) 9473
San Miguel Mtn. 9457
NEW MEXICO
PUERCO
McMillan

Ignacio Chavez NM-010-20 29,340 acres

Unit Description

Located approximately 6 miles due west of the village of Guadalupe, this unit includes expansive mesa tops, steep hills and cliffs and rolling foothills. Ignacio Chavez exhibits an excellent example of several abrupt environmental transition zones. Vegetation includes pinyon-juniper and ponderosa cover, scattered Douglas fir, prairie grasses and cactus.

Wilderness Characteristics

Due to a refined estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried within this unit is 34,120. It is bounded on the north, west and east by maintained dirt roads and on the south by the Cibola National Forest. Due to a boundary change, which excludes 1,872 acres that lack naturalness, the recommended WSA acreage is 32,248.

NATURALNESS: The majority of the Ignacio Chavez Inventory Unit appears to be natural. The large size of the unit, 32,248 acres, and its tremendous variation in vegetation and topography lend itself to the absorption of a larger variety of imprints of man without affecting the naturalness factor, than perhaps a smaller unit, less varied. Based on this rationale, the cumulative impact of the intrusions, comprised primarily of grazing improvements and 2-track vehicular ways, are not considered to affect the apparent naturalness of the inventory unit.

A boundary adjustment deleting 1,872 acres has been recommended based on the significant impact of a line camp.

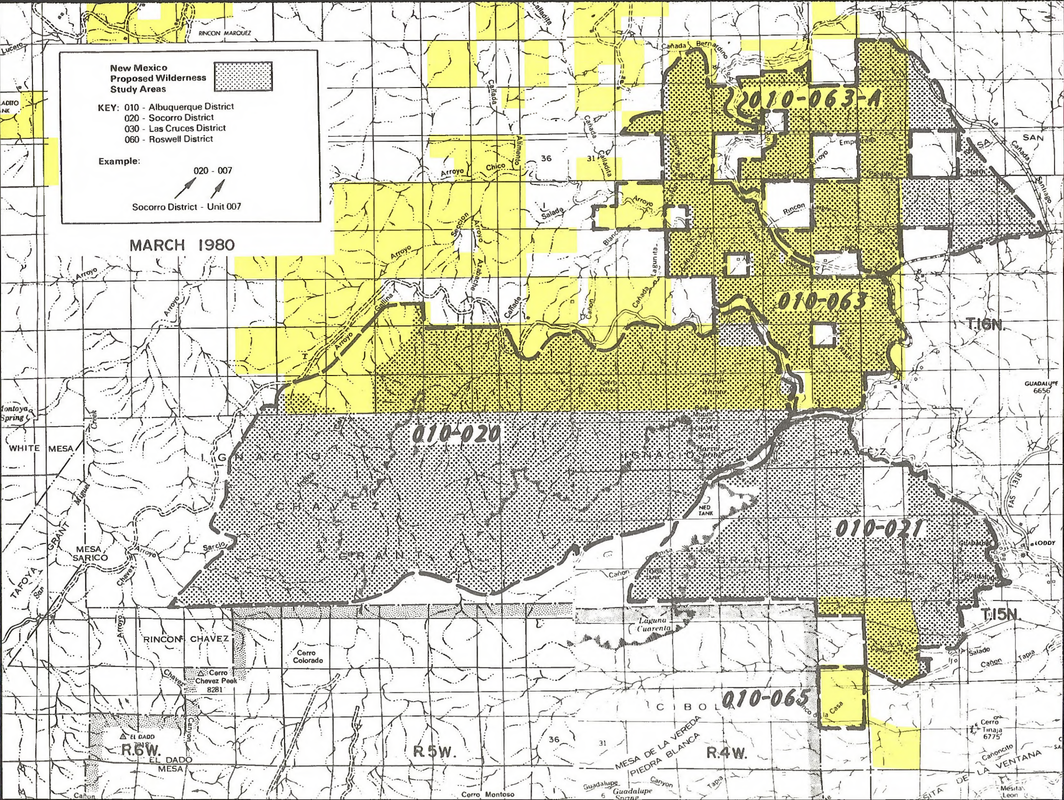
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The large size, rugged terrain and abundant vegetation provide opportunities for solitude in essentially every portion of the unit. Mesa tops skirted by thick vegetation, rugged canyons and rolling foothills provide a more than adequate setting for the absorption of a large number of user groups.

Ignacio Chavez provides an outstanding opportunity for a variety of recreational pursuits, including backpacking, hunting, photography, sightseeing and horseback riding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains several significant cultural sites, as well as unique wildlife and scenic values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. Recommended WSA acreage is 32,248.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
010-063-A
010-063
010-020
010-021
010-065
T.16N.
T.15N.
R.6W.
R.5W.
R.4W.
WHITE MESA
MESA SARICO
RINCON CHAVEZ
Cerro Chavez Peak 8281
Cerro Colorado
EL DADO MESA
MESA DE LA VEREDA
PIEDRA BLANCA
Laguna Cuarenta
NED TANK
RINCON MARQUEZ
GUADALUPE 6656
Cerro Tinaja 6775'
FAS 1318
LODDY
Montoya Spring

Unit Description

Chamisa is located approximately 21 air miles southwest of San Ysidro and is contiguous with the village of Guadalupe. The inventory unit to the east consists of rolling foothills cut by Guadalupe Canyon and Chamisa Canyon, as well as a variety of washes. As the unit progresses west, it climbs in elevation and culminates in a mesa top. Coinciding with the difference in elevation of 1,800 feet is a variety of vegetation. Shortgrass, bunchgrass, cacti and shrubs intermingle and give way to ponderosa pine and pinyon-juniper cover. Several springs are located within the inventory unit.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, this unit has been found to contain 12,915 acres of public land. It is bounded on the north and east by a maintained road, on the south by the Cibola National Forest and on the west by a combination of a maintained road and the edge of the mesa top. That portion of the unit lacking naturalness (1,924 acres) is being excluded and the remaining 11,091 acres are recommended for Wilderness Study.

NATURALNESS: This unit generally appears natural. It contains primarily a few range developments, but their cumulative impact is not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. The portions of the unit excluded by the boundary adjustments contain high density wood cutting and a water pipeline with a high concentration of affiliated range improvements.

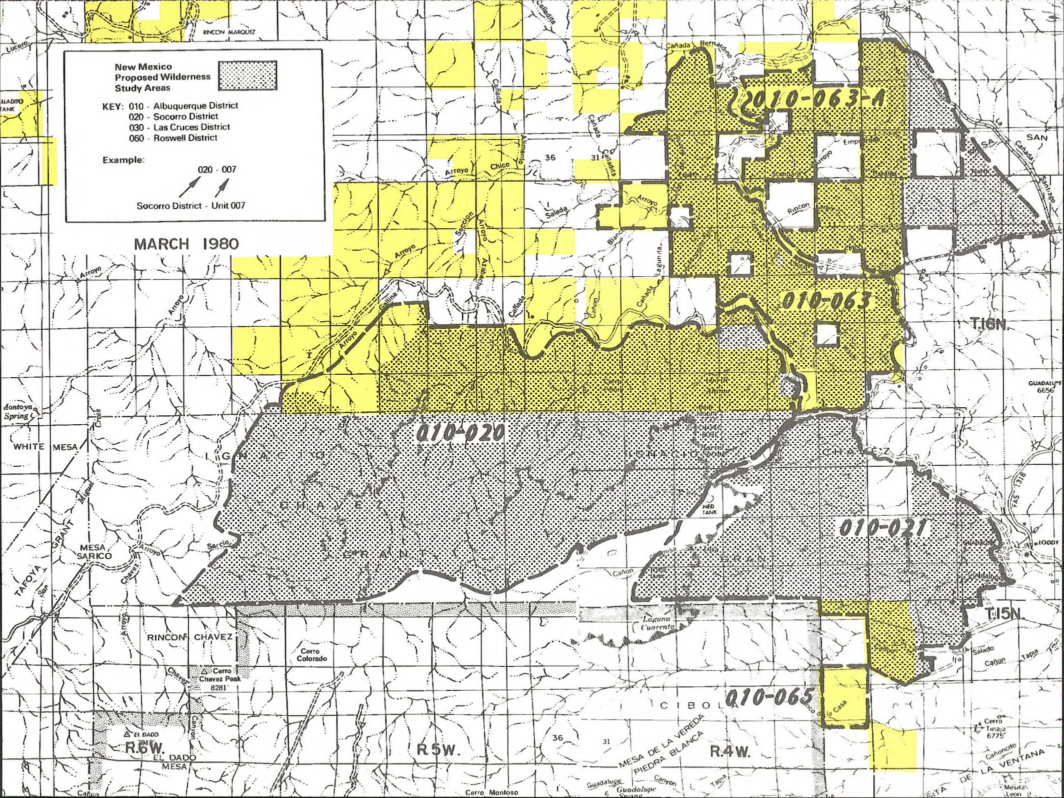
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit NM-010-21 provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The variety of topography and vegetation inherent within the unit enhances this solitude factor significantly. Both Chamisa and Guadalupe Canyons, along with the rugged terrain which dominates the western portion of the unit, allow the avoidance of the sights and sounds of other user groups.

Chamisa provides an outstanding opportunity for hiking and sightseeing, stemming from the variety of terrain. The unit is especially scenic in the western half and presents exciting vistas as the unit climbs in elevation. Sightseeing related to cultural values exists within the Chamisa Unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains scenic values derived from the variety of topography as well as cultural resources (both prehistoric and Spanish colonial).

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
2010-063-A
010-063
010-020
010-021
010-065
T.16N.
T.15N.
R.6W.
R.5W.
R.4W.
WHITE MESA
MESA SARICO
RINCON CHAVEZ
Cerro Chavez Peak 8281'
Cerro Colorado
CIBOLA
MESA DE LA VEREDA
PIEDRA BLANCA
EL DADO MESA
Laguna Cuarenta
NED TANK
Cerro Tinaja 6775'
Cerro Montoso
RINCON MARQUEZ

Unit Description

Cabezon is located approximately 15 air miles due west of San Ysidro. The unit consists of a volcanic plug 8,000 feet high which is surrounded by rolling hills cut by a network of arroyos. Vegetation confines itself primarily to the rolling foothills and consists of cacti, shrubs, grasses and some pinyon-juniper.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, this unit has been found to contain approximately 8,048 acres. It is bounded on the north and south by a maintained road, on the west by property boundaries, and on the east by a combination of powerline right-of-way #NM 559354 and Road 4.

A powerline necessitates a boundary change to the east of Inventory Unit Cabezon. The boundary will proceed along the legal right-of-way, which will delete 813 acres based on a lack of naturalness.

NATURALNESS: The Cabezon Inventory Unit appears to be natural. The cumulative impact of the existing impacts are not considered to be significant enough to impair the apparent naturalness of the inventory unit. The rolling foothills surrounding Cabezon Peak are adequate topograhic screening necessary to make the cumulative impacts of the four retention dams negligible.

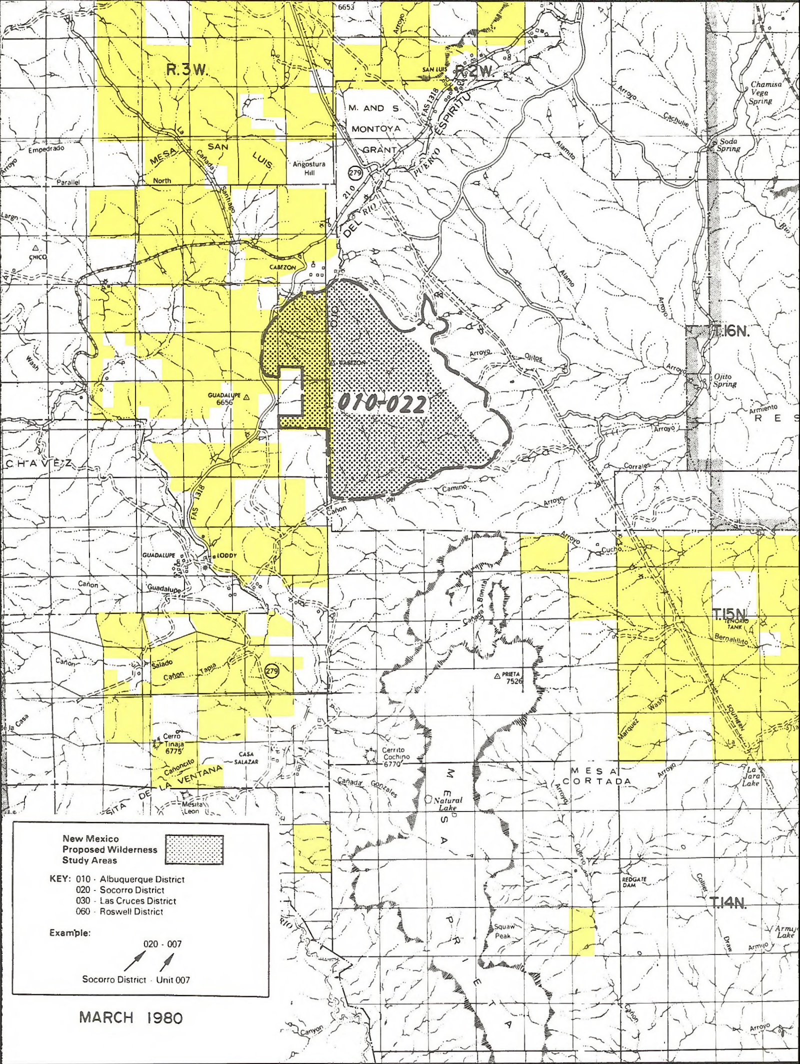
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unique geology of Cabezon provides an outstanding opportunity for those who choose to climb the peak itself or wander in among the foothills. The peak provides an internal topographic buffer for the utilization of several groups.

The area offers an opportunity for sightseeing and photography related to scenic, geologic and cultural values as well as the occasion for climbing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Cabezon is, in itself, a unique geologic feature, and contains two prehistoric shrines on the top of the peak.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.


R.3W.
R.2W.
T.16N.
T.15N.
T.14N.
010-022
M. AND S.
MONTOYA
GRANT
MESA SAN LUIS
North
Angostura
Hill
CABEZON
GUADALUPE
6656
CHAVEZ
FAS 1318
LODDY
GUADALUPE
Salado
Cañon
Tapia
Cerro
Tinaja
6775
Cañoncito
CASA
SALAZAR
Cerrito
Cochino
6770
Cañada
Gonzales
Mesita
Leon
PRIETA
7526
Natural
Lake
MESA PRIETA
MESA CORTADA
Squaw
Peak
REDGATE
DAM
TENORIO
TANK
Bernalillito
Marquez
Wash
La
Jara
Lake
Chamisa
Vega
Spring
Soda
Spring
Ojito
Spring
Armiento
Corrales
Ojitos
Camino
del
Cañon
Cucho
Cañada Bonita
Empedrado
Parallel
CHICO
SAN LUIS
ESPIRITU
PUERCO
DEL RIO
279
6653
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Ojito NM-010-24 7,680 acres

Unit Description

Ojito is located approximately 5 miles southwest of the village of San Ysidro, New Mexico. The unit consists primarily of steep and rocky terrain interspersed with several steep canyons. Vegetative cover is primarily pinyon-juniper, shrubs and grasses. Arroyo Bernalillo and Arroyo Quesencia provide an intermittent water supply.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimates, this unit has been found to contain approximately 15,189 acres of public land, approximately 640 acres of State land and approximately 950 acres of private land.

It is bounded on the north and east by property boundaries, on the south by a combination of property boundaries and a maintained road and on the west by a maintained road.

NATURALNESS: NM-010-24, Ojito, is not affected primarily by the forces of nature and, therefore, is not natural. The cumulative impact of the man-made intrusions negate the unit's natural qualities. In and of themselves, small retention dams cannot be considered a major intrusion, particularly since several are internally buffered by rough topography. However, 20 such retention dams dispersed through the inventory unit must be considered substantially noticeable. That, in conjunction with a powerline to the east, pipeline to the south, several "cherry stem" maintained roads, woodcutting, a house and two windmills, not to mention a small population center to the east and historical ORV use, make Ojito substantially impacted by the works of man.

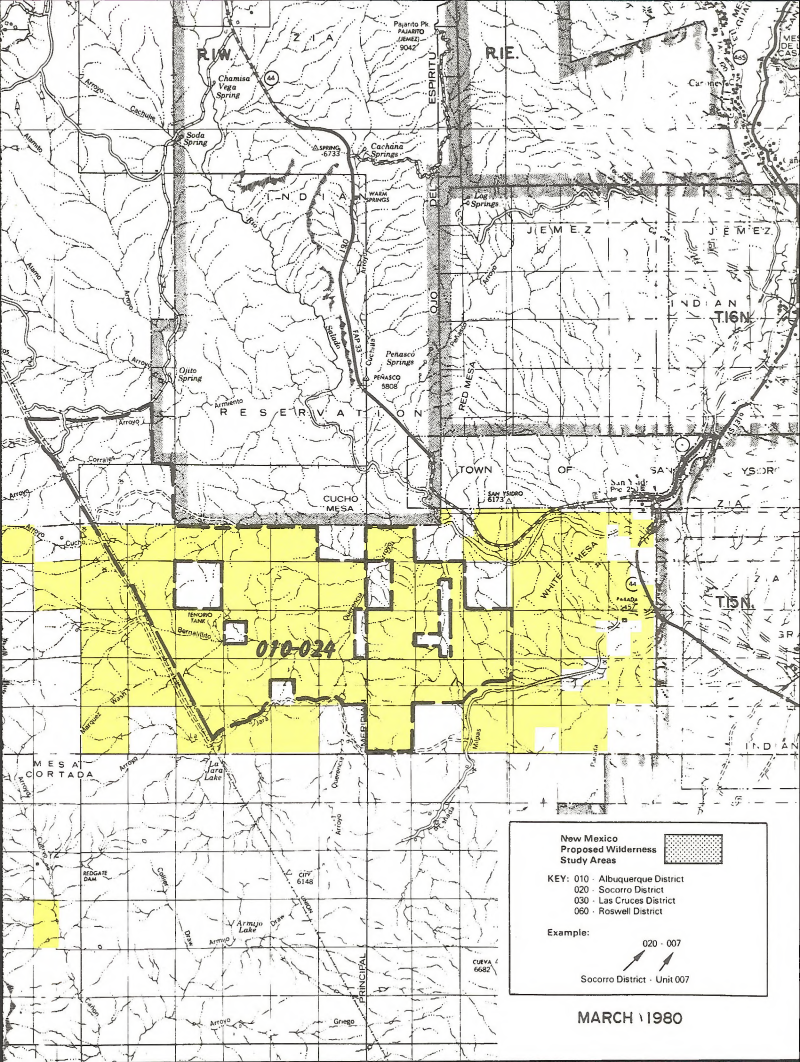
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The center of this unit provides the opportunity for solitude. The rocky, rugged terrain and low level of intrusions by man exhibited does provide the opportunity for the user to avoid the sight and sounds of others. The remainder of the unit, because of a combination of more gentle topography and a much higher degree of impact by man, does not provide an opportunity to experience solitude.

No outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation exist.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains several prehistoric sites as well as scenic values.

Recommendation

This unit does not contain wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R.1W.
R.1E.
ZIA
INDIAN
RESERVATION
JEMEZ
JEMEZ
INDIAN
T16N.
T15N.
TOWN OF SAN YSIDRO
ZIA
Pajarito Pk.
PAJARITO (JEMEZ) 9042
Chamisa Vega Spring
Soda Spring
Cachana Springs
SPRING 6733
WARM SPRINGS
Log Springs
Peñasco Springs
PEÑASCO 5808
Ojito Spring
Armiento
CUCHO MESA
SAN YSIDRO 6173
WHITE MESA
TENORIO TANK
Bernalillito
010-024
Marquez Wash
La Jara Lake
MESA CORTADA
REDGATE DAM
CITY 6148
Armijo Lake
CUEVA 6682
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

The Windmill inventory unit is approximately 18 miles southeast of Antonito, Colorado. It is located on the Colorado/New Mexico border and is contiguous with Colorado Inventory Unit, Twin Peaks (CO-050-142). The topography for the inventory unit can be characterized as a gently rolling plain with short grass and brush vegetative cover. Approximately 3 miles of the Rio Grande is included in the unit. The unit does not contain access to the river.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Inventory unit NM-010-33 was divided into two inventory units by a road. These units are NM-010-33 and NM-010-33(a) is contiguous to CO-050-142. Due to revised estimates, NM-010-33 contains 9,447 acres of public land and 55 acres of private. NM-010-33(a) contains 1,100 acres of public land in New Mexico plus 2,960 acres in Colorado. The total for NM-010-33(a) and CO-050-142 is 4,060.

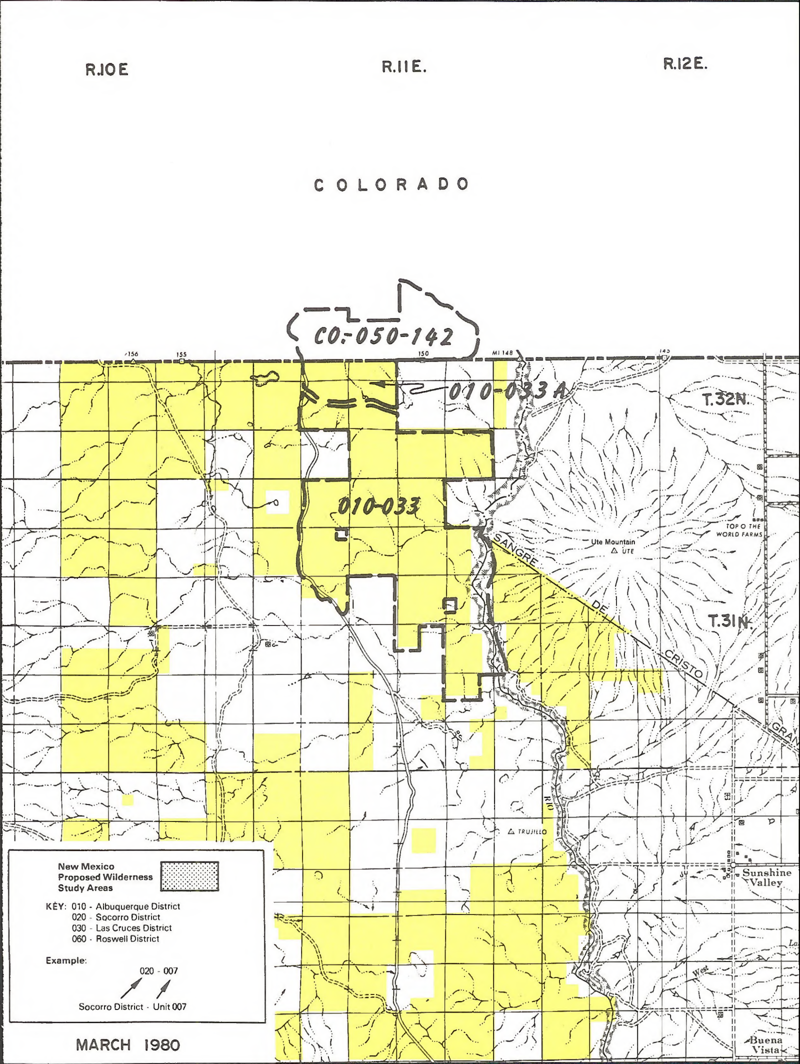
NATURALNESS: NM-010-33(a) contains a metal tank, water catchment, exclosure, and a loading ramp which cause the area to be significantly impacted by the imprint of man. NM-010-33 contains two major impacts which significantly impact naturalness.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Neither inventory unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive or unconfined recreation, primarily because of limitations imposed by topography and vegetation. Both inventory units do provide opportunities for solitude only when there are no other visitors within the same viewscape. These opportunities cannot be described as outstanding. The portion of the Rio Grande Gorge located in NM-010-33 cannot contribute to these elements, as it is not accessible to visitors, and in fact becomes a natural barrier.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Rio Grande Canyon contains an excellent population of raptor species.

Recommendation

Neither NM-010-33(a) nor NM-010-33 contain wilderness characteristics or qualify for wilderness study.



R.10E
R.11E.
R.12E.
COLORADO
CO-050-142
010-033 A
010-033
T.32N.
T.31N.
Ute Mountain
UTE
TOP O THE WORLD FARMS
SANGRE DE CRISTO GRAN
TRUJILLO
RIO
Sunshine Valley
Buena Vista
West
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

San Antonio is located north of San Antonio Mountain, approximately 5 miles southwest of Antonito, Colorado; is bordered on the east by U.S. 285; and on the west by the Carson National Forest. The unit is composed of broad, gently rolling sagebrush and grass plains bisected in the western portions by the 140-foot deep San Antonio River canyon. This canyon is covered by riparian vegetation which include patches of lush summer grasses intermixed with large Ponderosa pine. The river flows on an intermittent-seasonal basis.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, this unit has been found to contain 18,130 acres of public land and 1,920 acres of state inholdings. The eastern boundary of the 7,050 acre portion of the unit with wilderness characteristics has been placed along a two-wire telephone line owned by Johns-Manville Perilite Corporation of Antonito, Colorado. This excludes 11,080 acres of public land which are not natural.

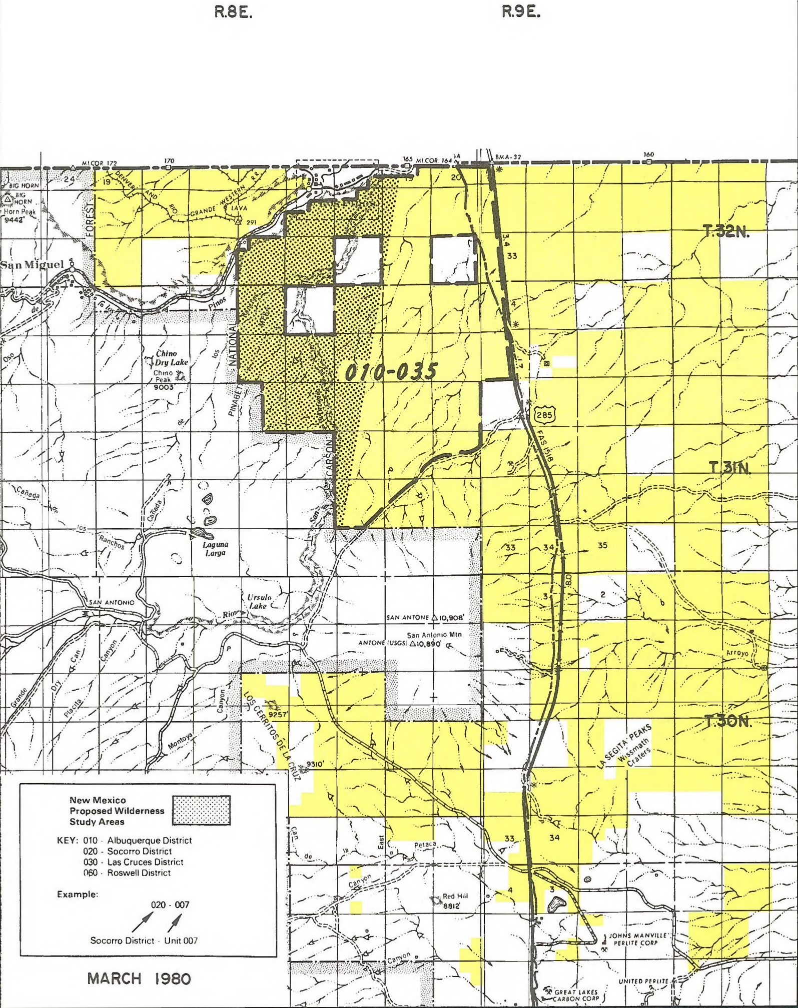
NATURALNESS: The San Antonio inventory unit is divided into 2 distinct areas by an existing overhead telephone line. The public land located to the west of the telephone line (approximately 7,050 acres) is natural and except for a portion of a jeep trail and approximately 2 3/4 miles of a single fenceline almost pristine. The predominant influence upon this portion of the landscape is approximately 5 1/2 miles of the pristine San Antonio Canyon. The public land portions of the inventory unit to the east of the existing overhead telephone line (approximately 11,080 acres) are impacted by 9 vehicular ways, 2 stock watering ponds, a major, visible electrical transmission line in the northeast corner of the unit, 2 corrals and an extensive network of fencelines. The cumulative impact of these man-made impacts upon the landscape when viewed in context with its relatively modest rolling terrain and lack of significant vegetative screening can be characterized as not-natural in appearance.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: San Antonio provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. San Antonio Canyon acts as both a natural buffer to the unit's western portion and provides in itself a topographic and vegetative screen to users who venture into its accessible but remote canyon floor. San Antonio does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains an important wildlife habitat. Deer and elk utilize the area as a major migratory path moving seasonally from Colorado into New Mexico.

Recommendation

The western 7,050 acres of the unit contain wilderness characteristics and qualify for wilderness study. The remaining 11,080 should be deleted from further consideration as wilderness.



R.8E.
R.9E.
T.32N.
T.31N.
T.30N.
010-035
San Miguel
Chino Dry Lake
Chino Peak 9003'
Horn Peak 9442'
Laguna Larga
Ursulo Lake
SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONE △10,908'
San Antonio Mtn
ANTONE (USGS) △10,890'
LOS CERRITOS DE LA CRUZ
LA SEGITA PEAKS
Wissmath Craters
Red Hill 8812'
JOHNS MANVILLE PERLITE CORP
UNITED PERLITE
GREAT LAKES CARBON CORP
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
DENVER AND RIO GRANDE WESTERN R.R.
285
FAS 1518
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

Located approximately 11 miles northwest of the village of Questa, New Mexico, this unit consists of mountainous terrain rising in elevation from 7,670 to 9,464, surrounded by rolling foothills. Vegetation is very dense, with heavy stands of pinyon-juniper in the lower elevations, and thick Ponderosa pine and spruce covers in the higher elevations. The top of Cerro de la Olla has several broad grass meadows.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, this unit has been found to contain 13,283 acres of public land and 1,294 acres of State inholdings. It is bounded on the west, east, north and south by a combination of property boundaries and maintained roads.

NATURALNESS: Cerro de la Olla does not appear to be natural. The cumulative impact of several significant intrusions dispersed throughout the unit do not allow even a boundary adjustment to be considered and still leave an area which will fulfill both the naturalness and size criteria. Significant intrusions could be eliminated if a boundary adjustment were made based on naturalness. This, however, would still leave the major impact of a 1-acre catchment in the center of the remaining acreage. The evidence of man is so obvious and occurs in such a pattern throughout the unit that not even the dense vegetation and mountainous terrain of Cerro de la Olla can totally mitigate their impact.

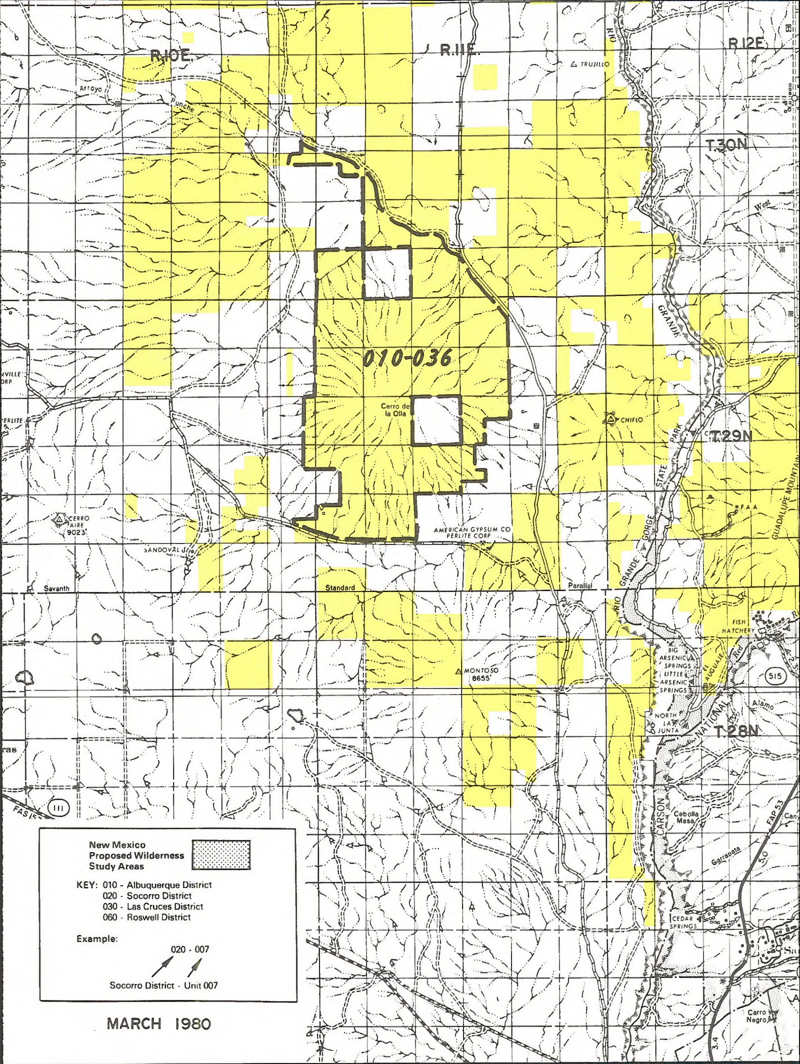
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit NM-010-36, Cerro de la Olla, provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The steep canyons running down the sides of Cerro de la Olla are particularly rugged and isolated. Dense vegetation along the slopes as well as the foothills greatly enhance the opportunity to experience solitude.

In addition, Cerro de la Olla provides an outstanding opportunity for hunting, backpacking and sightseeing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Inventory Unit NM-010-36 contains historic, scenic and wildlife supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit does not contain wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R.10E.
R.11E.
R.12E.
T.30N.
T.29N.
T.28N.
TRUJILLO
Arroyo
Punche
010-036
Cerro de la Olla
CHIFLO
CERRO AIRE 9023'
SANDOVAL
Savanth
Standard
AMERICAN GYPSUM CO PERLITE CORP
Parallel
MONTOSO 8655'
RIO GRANDE GORGE STATE PARK
GUADALUPE MOUNTAIN
F.A.A.
FISH HATCHERY
BIG ARSENIC SPRINGS
LITTLE ARSENIC SPRINGS
NORTH LA JUNTA
CARSON NATIONAL
Alamo
515
Cebolla Mesa
Garrapata
FAP 53
CEDAR SPRINGS
Carro Negro
111
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Sabinosa NM-010-55 15,360 acres

Unit Description

Sabinosa is located approximately 8 air miles notheast of Trujillo, New Mexico, 20 air miles northwest of Conchas Reservoir and ½ mile due west of Sabinosa, New Mexico. The inventory unit is composed of a series of high, narrow shelves surrounded by steep-rock-walled canyons. The area is thickly covered with vegetation. Tree stands within the unit range in variety from ponderosa pine to pinyon-juniper to oak. Grama grass and side-oats grama, snakeweed, little blue stem grass and cholla cactus are all found in abundance within the area.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 15,760 plus a 250-acre private inholding.

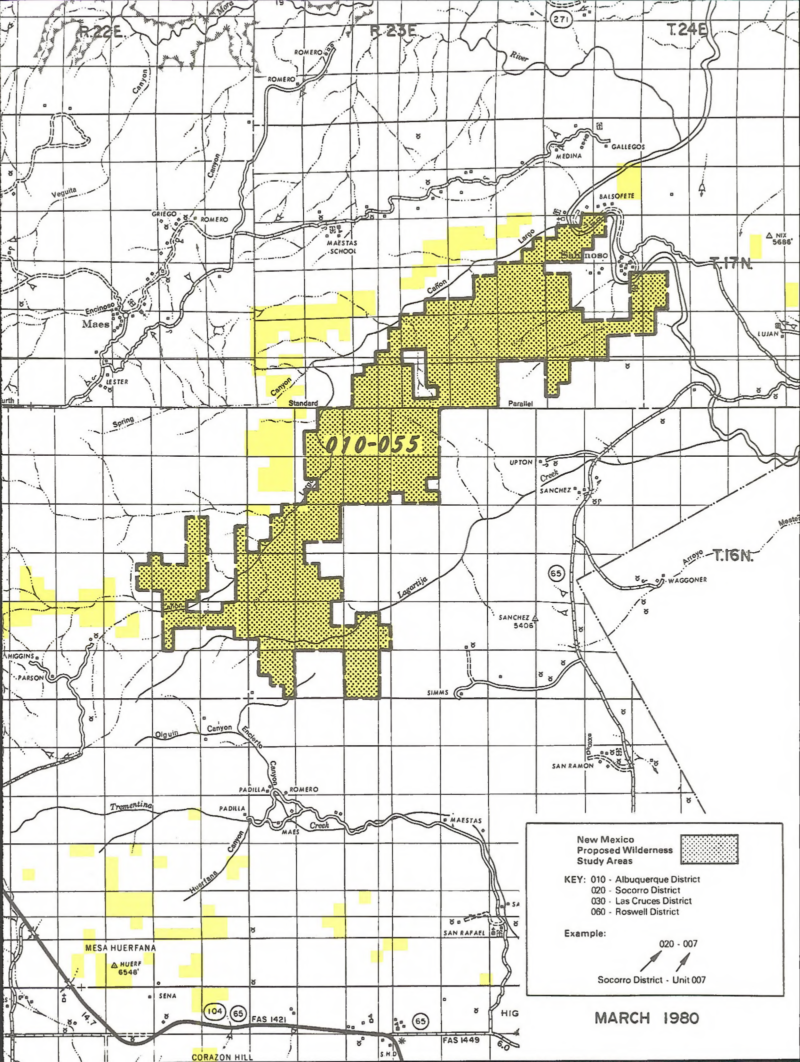
NATURALNESS: Sabinosa, NM-010-55, is natural in character when viewed as a whole. The extreme topographic relief found within the area and the dense vegetative cover on the landscape aid in concealing the minor man-made impacts within NM-010-55. These impacts include: 4 miles of wooden fence line, 10 small stock ponds, several small wooden corrals and an underground telephone line. Two minor boundary adjustments were made to exclude a "cherry stem" graded road in T. 16 N., R. 23 E., Section 4 and an overhead electrical powerline in T. 17 N., R. 24, E., Sections 21 and 28.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit, NM-010-55, provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The combination of the numerous, remote canyons and the densely vegetated landscape provide an environment that contributes to outstanding opportunities for users to avoid the sights and sounds of both other users within the area and influences of man outside of the inventory unit. Sabinosa provides outstanding examples of challenging recreation opportunities. The opportunities for backpacking and hiking within this area are representative of the best opportunities available to the wilderness enthusiast within New Mexico.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Sabinosa contains important barbary sheep and wild turkey habitat. A number of cultural resource sites have been found within the area. The majority of these localities are associated with the homesteading which occurred within the region in the mid-1800's.

Recommendation

The area contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.


R.22E.
R.23E.
T.24E.
T.17N.
T.16N.
010-055
Mora
River
Canyon
Veguita
ROMERO
GRIEGO
MAESTAS SCHOOL
GALLEGOS
MEDINA
BALSOFETE
NIX 5686'
Largo
Cañon
Encinoso
Maes
LESTER
LUJAN
Standard
Parallel
Spring
UPTON
Creek
SANCHEZ
Arroyo
WAGGONER
Lagartija
SANCHEZ 5406'
HIGGINS
PARSON
SIMMS
Olguin
Encierto
SAN RAMON
PADILLA
Trementina
MAESTAS
MAES
Huerfana
SAN RAFAEL
MESA HUERFANA
HUERF 6546'
SENA
FAS 1421
FAS 1449
CORAZON HILL
S.H.D.
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

The unit is located just south of the community of Chimayo in Santa Fe County, New Mexico. Composed of steep, broken and severely eroded sandstone ridges which are divided by sandy, vast arroyos, Seco is vegetated with scattered pinyon-juniper and shortgrass. This public land unit is surrounded on its western and northern borders by heavily populated areas.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit originally contained 8,960 acres of public land. A boundary modification to exclude a "cherry stem" graded road which serves a Santa Fe County landfill in T. 20 N., R. 9 E., Sec. 13, has been made; the unit now contains 6,550 acres.

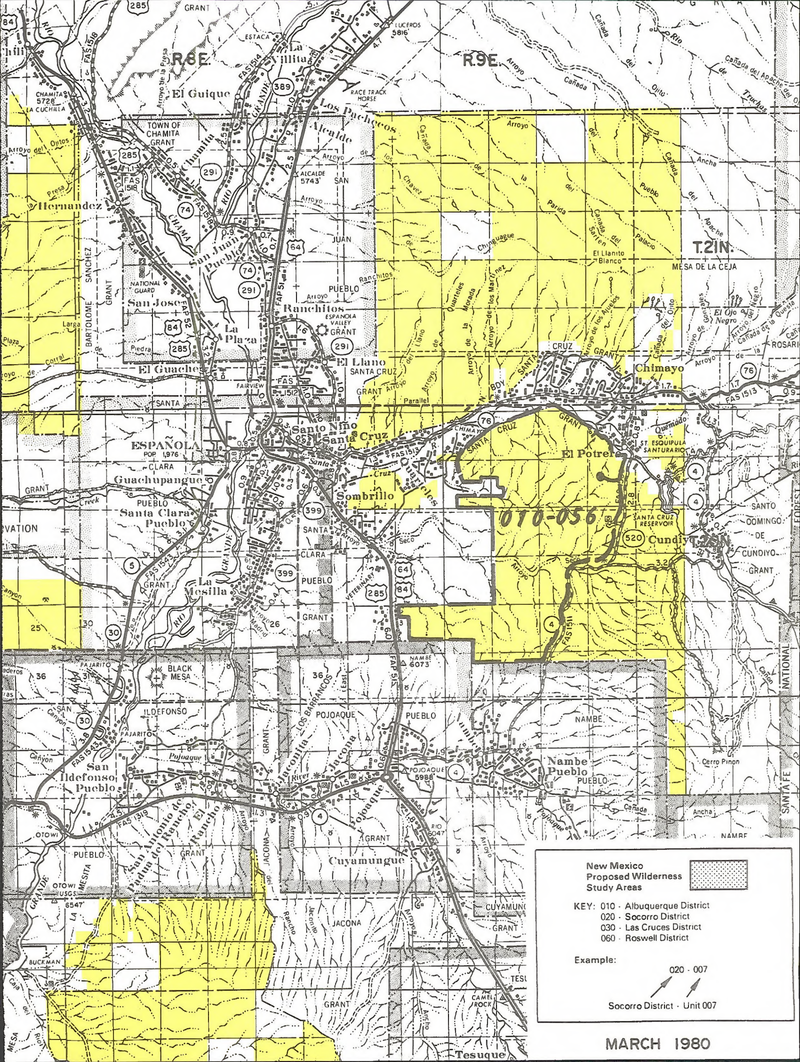
NATURALNESS: Inventory Unit NM-010-56, Seco, does not have 5,000 acres of contiguous public land which are natural in character. A heavy concentration of 17 man-made intrusions and 18 vehicular ways or trails within the central 1/3 of the unit have impacted this portion to a degree that it no longer can be considered natural. The remaining sections of the unit which are natural in character no longer meet the size and manageability criteria as required for wilderness study area designation.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Seco provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude in its north-central sections. The extremely rugged and broken topography within this area produce a natural terrain screening factor which provides outstanding opportunities for potential users to avoid the sights and sounds of other users within the unit. Seco does not offer an outstanding opportunity for primitive and unconfined recreation, since its opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping and photography are neither unusual nor outstanding, and may be found in numerous other areas within the Albuquerque District's public lands.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Seco Inventory Unit contains a number of paleontological localities. Frequently referred to as Skull Ridge or the White Quarry operation, these localities contain fossils of large mammals which are estimated to be approximately 20 million years old.

Recommendation

Seco does not contain the required wilderness characteristics for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
010-056
R.8E.
R.9E.
T.21N.
T.20N.
ESPAÑOLA
POP. 1,976
Santa Cruz
Chimayo
El Potrero
Cundiyo
SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR
Nambe Pueblo
San Ildefonso Pueblo
Pojoaque
Cuyamungue
Tesuque
MARCH 1980

Navajo Peak NM-010-59 3,200 acres

Unit Description

Navajo Peak is located approximately 3.5 air miles south of El Vado, New Mexico. The unit is contiguous to the U. S. Forest Service's RARE II Area 098, Chama Extension which is recommended for further planning. The unit is composed of a combination of gently rolling grass and sage plains bordered by dense ponderosa stands and the northern portions of Gallina Peak. The unit is bisected on a north-south line by the Chama River which meanders through a 900 foot deep canyon.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to additional data from intensive inventory, the Navajo Peak Unit increased in size and was divided into three units: NM-010-59 Navajo Peak, (7,750 acres); NM-010-59A, Navajo Peak-northwest (1,139 acres); and NM-010-59B, Navajo Peak-northeast (365 acres). The latter two units are not of sufficient size for practical preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. The Navajo Peak unit contains 480 acres of private inholdings.

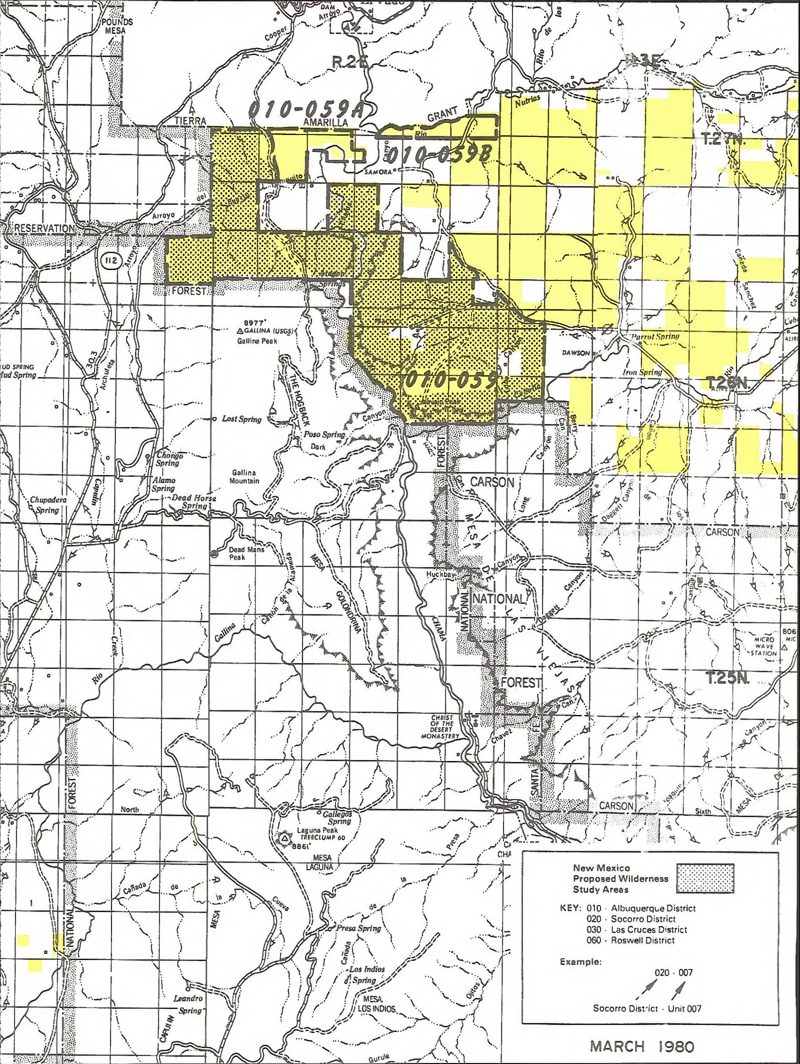
NATURALNESS: Each of the three areas contain numerous intrusions which impact the area's naturalness. The original inventory unit was divided into three areas by roads and landownership patterns. In unit, NM-010-59, 16 intrusions, including 12 vehicular ways, were identified. The impact of these ways was minimized due to the overriding grandeur of the Chama River Canyon.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Inventory Unit NM-010-59, Navajo Peak offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. The combination of dense Ponderosa pine stands and the extremely varied topography provides excellent screening of potential visitors from one another. Because of the relatively small size of the Navajo Peak subunits (NM-010-59A and NM-010-59B), it would be difficult for visitors utilizing these areas to achieve an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Inventory Unit NM-010-59 provides outstanding recreation opportunities for hiking, photography, fishing, primitive camping, and canoeing. Subinventory units NM-010-59A and NM-010-59B provide similar opportunities in quantity to NM-010-59, but not the same quality, primarily because of their limited size.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: All three units provide scenic vistas overlooking Chama Canyon.

Recommendation

Navajo Peak, NM-010-59, contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. NM-010-59A and NM-010-59B do not qualify for wilderness study.



POUNDS MESA
Cooper
Arroyo
R.2E.
R.3E.
Rio de los
010-059A
TIERRA
AMARILLA
GRANT
Nutrias
Rio
010-059B
SAMORA
T.27N.
RESERVATION
Arroyo
del
112
Arroyo
FOREST
Springs
8977'
GALLINA (USGS)
Gallina Peak
Parrot Spring
DAWSON
Iron Spring
Cañada
Sanchez
UD SPRING
Mud Spring
30.3
Archuleta
THE HOGBACK
010-059
Navajo Peak
T.26N.
Lost Spring
Canyon
Poso Spring
Dark
Chongo Spring
Alamo Spring
Gallina Mountain
CARSON
Chupadera Spring
Capulin
Dead Horse Spring
MESA
DE
LAS
VIEJAS
Long
Canyon
Daggett Canyon
CARSON
Dead Mans Peak
Cañon de la Alameda
MESA
GOLONDRINA
Huckbay
NATIONAL
Canyon
Daggett
Canyon
Gallina
Creek
CHAMA
NATIONAL
MICRO WAVE STATION
Rio
FOREST
T.25N.
CHRIST OF THE DESERT MONASTERY
Chavez
Can.
SANTA FE
Canyon
FOREST
North
Gallegos Spring
Laguna Peak
TREECLUMP 60
8861'
CARSON
Joaquin
Sixth
MESA DE
Presa
MESA
LAGUNA
Cañada
de
la
Cueva
la
de
MESA
Presa Spring
Cañada
NATIONAL
Los Indios Spring
Leandro Spring
MESA LOS INDIOS
Ojitos
CAPULIN
Gurule
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Empedrado NM-010-63 7,350 acres

Unit Description

Empedrado is located approximately four miles northwest of the village of Guadalupe. The unit consists of broken terrain with sandstone mesas and rolling grassland, interspersed with intermittent arroyos and washes including both Torreon Wash and Chico Arroyo. Vegetation includes a variety of grasses and cacti, as well as pinyon-juniper cover located primarily in the northwestern portion of the inventory unit.

Chico Arroyo provides a seasonal water supply, supplementing that provided by springs.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, this unit has been found to contain 8,419 acres of public land and 329 acres of private inholdings. It is bounded on the north, east and south by maintained roads, and on the west by a combination of maintained roads and property boundaries. This excludes 1,035 acres of the inventory unit which lack naturalness.

NATURALNESS: The majority of the Empedrado Inventory Unit appears to be natural. The cumulative impact of the existing impacts (minimal evidence of mineral exploration and several small retention dams) are not considered to be significant enough to impair the apparent naturalness of the inventory unit.

A boundary adjustment deleting 1,035 acres has been recommended based on the significant impacts of a drill pad and large retention dam.

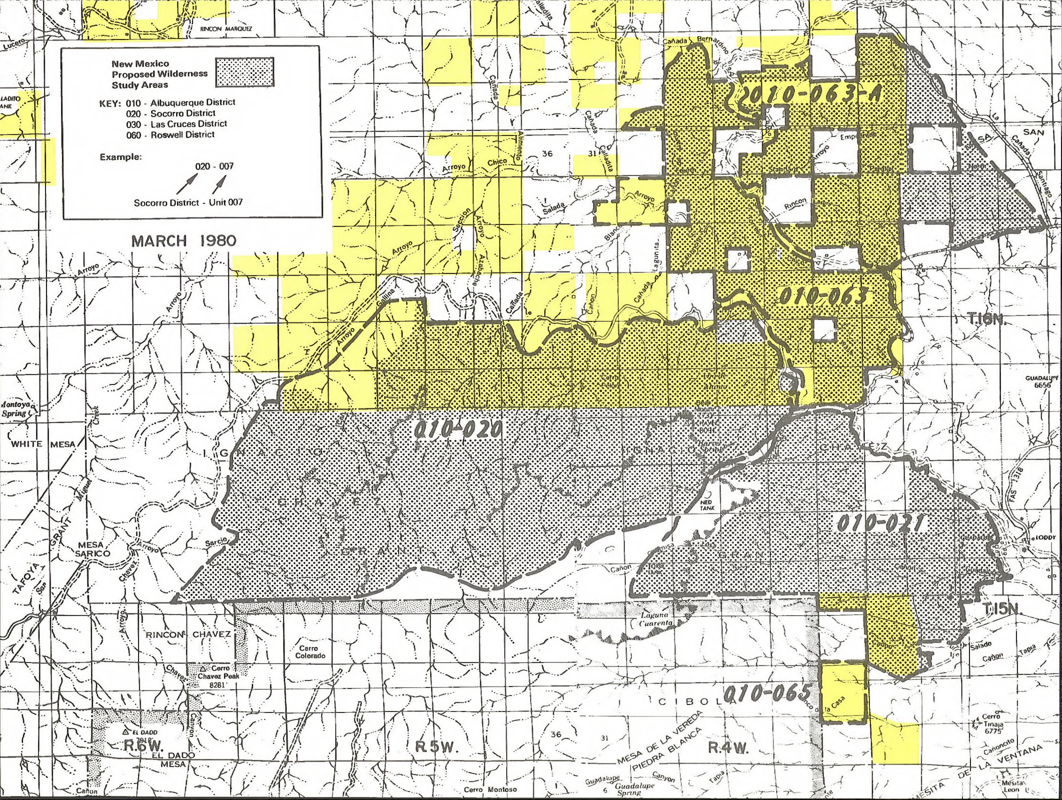
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The broken terrain, particularly in the western portions of the inventory unit, provide the opportunity for solitude. Winding washes and steep sided mesas exhibit ample opportunity for the user to experience a feeling of remoteness and isolation.

Empedrado does possess opportunities for recreation, but no single recreation opportunity contained within the inventory unit may be characterized as outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains both scenic and cultural supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
2010-063-A
010-063
010-020
010-021
010-065
T.16N.
T.15N.
R.6W.
R.5W.
R.4W.
RINCON MARQUEZ
WHITE MESA
MESA SARICO
RINCON CHAVEZ
Cerro Chavez Peak 8281
Cerro Colorado
EL DADO MESA
MESA DE LA VEREDA
PIEDRA BLANCA
Laguna Cuarenta
NED TANK
Cerro Montoso
Guadalupe Spring
Cerro Tinaja 6775
GUADALUPE 6656
Montoya Spring
TAFOYA
GRANT
IGNACIO
CHAVEZ
CIBOLA
LODDY
FAS 1318

Unit Description

La Lena is located approximately 7 miles north of the village of Guadalupe. The unit consists of broken terrain with steep sided mesas cut by a network of arroyos. Vegetation includes a variety of grasses and cacti, as well as pinyon-juniper cover.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: La Lena is a new roadless unit which was discovered during the early phases of the intensive inventory and contains approximately 9,359 acres of public land, and approximately 1,280 acres of State inholdings. It is bounded on the east side by maintained roads and on the south, north and west by a combination of maintained roads and property boundaries.

NATURALNESS: The La Lena Inventory Unit generally appears to be natural. The cumulative impact of several small rentention dams and some evidence of mineral exploration are not considered significant enough to impair the apparent naturalness of the inventory unit.

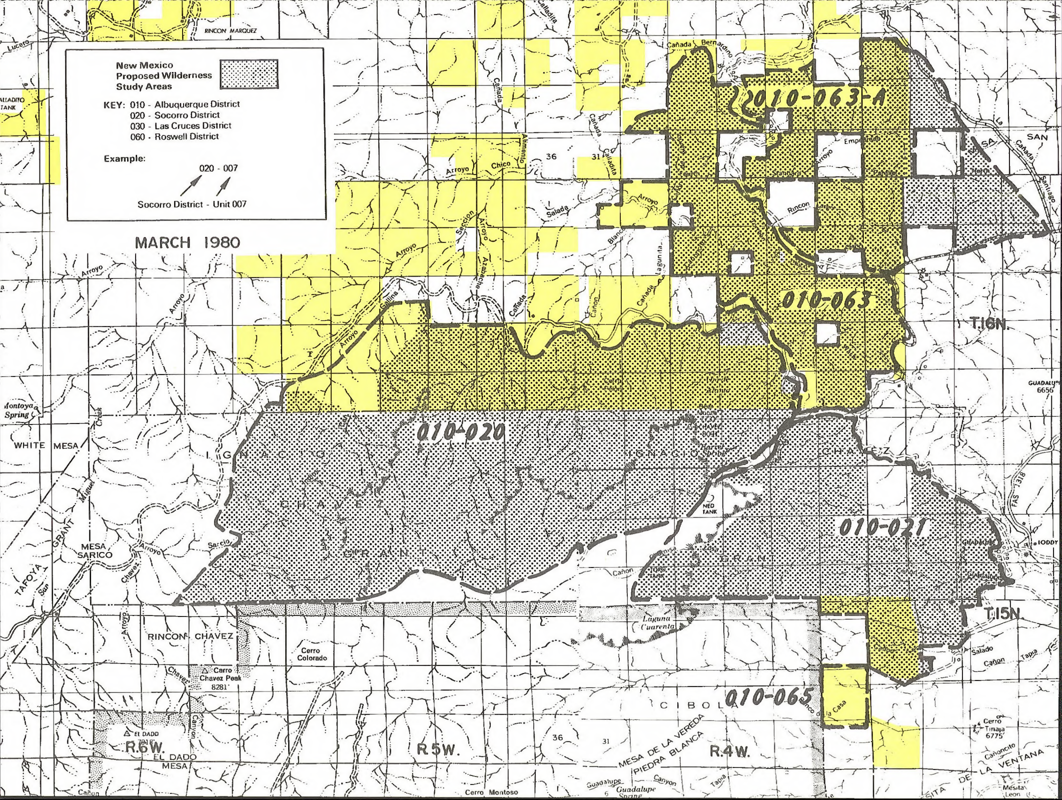
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: In La Lena, it is the abundance of small sandstone eroded canyons and meandering arroyos mingled with steep sided mesas which provide the topographic relief necessary to absorb a variety of user groups. The opprotunity for solitude is well dispersed throughout the inventory unit.

Although La Lena does offer recreational opportunities, no single recreation opportunity contained within the inventory unit may be characterized as outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: La Lena contains both scenic and cultural supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
2010-063-A
010-063
010-020
010-021
010-065
T.16N.
T.15N.
R.6W.
R.5W.
R.4W.
WHITE MESA
MESA SARICO
RINCON CHAVEZ
Cerro Colorado
Carro Chavez Peak 8281'
EL DADO MESA
MESA DE LA VEREDA
PIEDRA BLANCA
CIBOLA
Laguna Cuarenta
NED TANK
Montoya Spring
RINCON MARQUEZ
Cerro Tinaja 6775'
Cerro Montoso

Rattlesnake NM-010-90 4,500 acres

Unit Description

This inventory unit is located 3.5 air miles northeast of Farmington, New Mexico. It is comprised of a steep-sided canyon with a rocky valley floor. Vegetative cover includes pinyon-juniper, scattered ponderosa pine and sage. The canyon drainage provides an intermittent water source.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: During the intensive inventory, this unit was found to contain 381 acres of public land. It is confined to the canyon proper, the boundary consisting of the 6,600 contour along the rim.

NATURALNESS: This unit does not appear to be natural. The two pipelines, Rights-of-way #NM 24306 and NM #36750, constitute a major impairment to the naturalness of the canyon. The pipe is both buried and exposed, as well as a wide swath of cleared vegetation on either side. Oil and gas wells and pads are dispersed within the canyon. The rugged nature of Rattlesnake is significantly impacted by the imprint of man throughout.

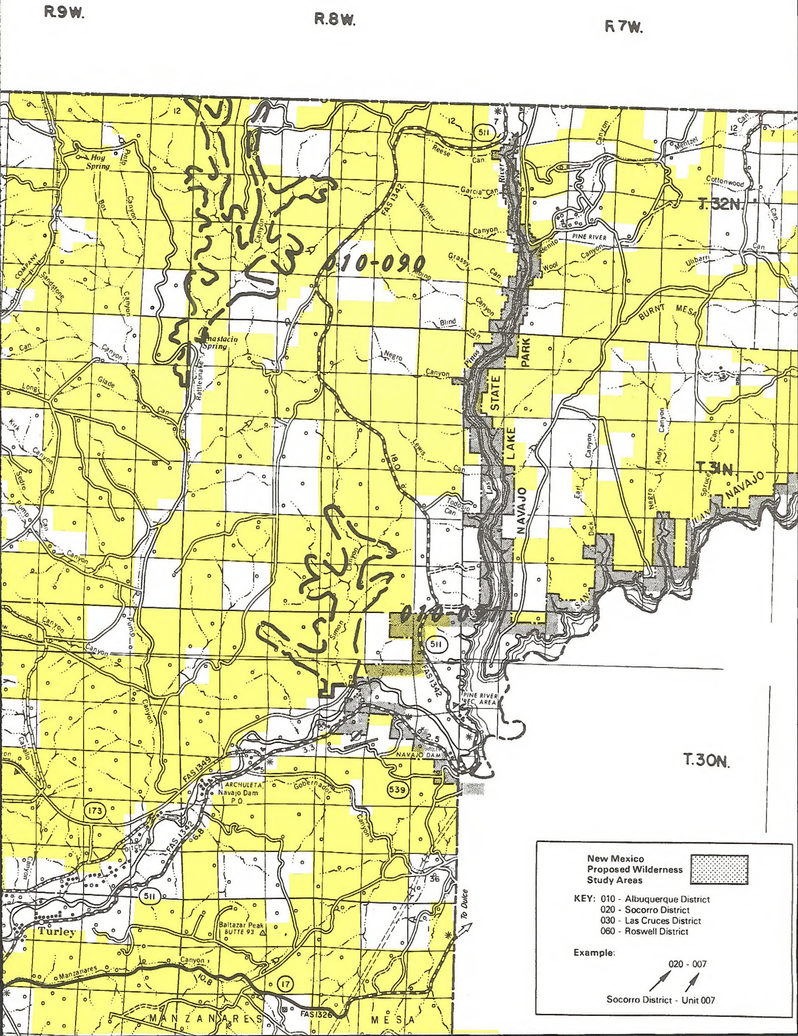
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit does not provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude. The major imprints of man widely dispersed throughout the canyon would negate any solitude potential, despite the rugged topography of the canyon.

Rattlesnake provides an outstanding opportunity for hiking and sightseeing related to wildlife and scenic values.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains both scenic and wildlife supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit does not contain wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for Wilderness Study. However, Rattlesnake has been identified as an ACEC in the Bureau's San Juan Planning Document and is scheduled for designation in 1981.


R.9W.
R.8W.
R.7W.
T.32N.
T.31N.
T.30N.
010-090
010-091
NAVAJO LAKE STATE PARK
PINE RIVER REC. AREA
NAVAJO DAM
ARCHULETA
Navajo Dam P.O.
Turley
Baltazar Peak BUTTE 93
MANZANARES MESA
BURNT MESA
To Dulce
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

Unit Description

This inventory unit is approximately 273 acres and is located about 25 air miles northeast of Farmington, New Mexico. It is comprised of a steep-sided canyon with a rocky valley floor. Vegetative cover includes pinyon-juniper and scattered ponderosa pine and sage.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: During intensive inventory, this unit was found to contain 273 roadless acres of public land. Simon is confined to the canyon proper, the boundary consisting of the 6,200-foot contour along the rim.

NATURALNESS: Inventory Unit NM-010-91, Simon, does not appear to be natural. The pipeline spanning the canyon and the two oil wells negate the possibility of naturalness, considering the small area which must absorb such a large degree of the imprint of man. The pipeline is not screened by vegetation or topography and is visible both to the north and south creating a significant imprint of man's works.

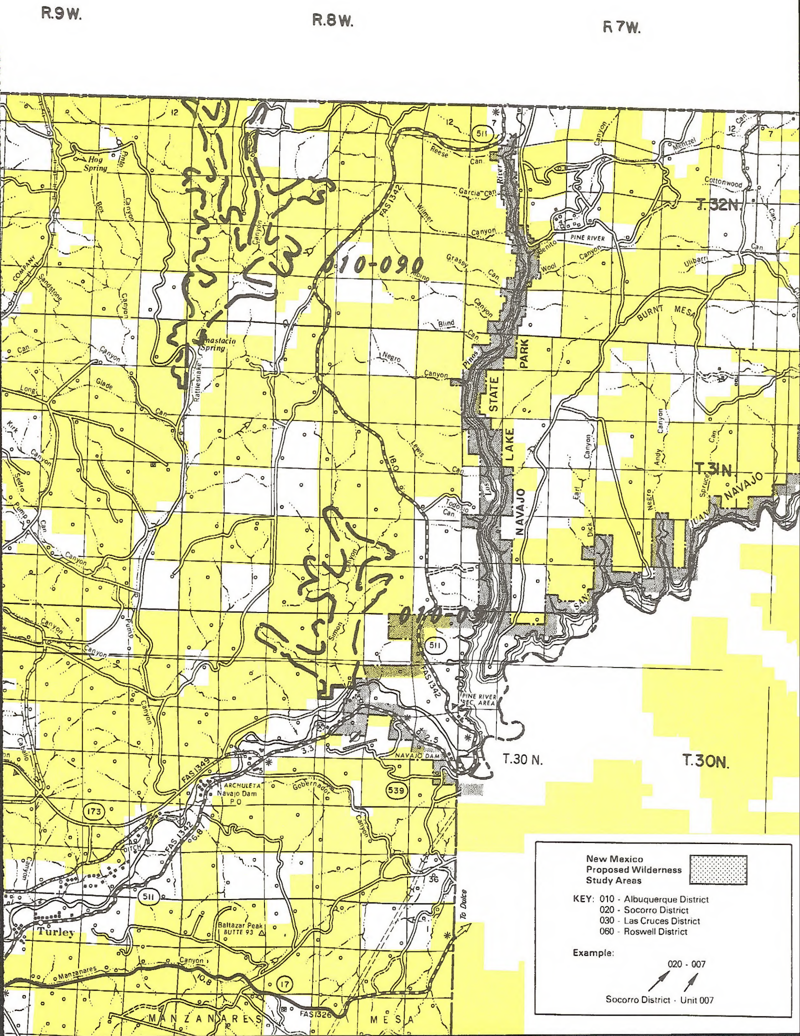
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: An outstanding opportunity to experience solitude has been effectively removed by the existence of the pipeline spanning the center of the canyon. A sense of solitude could not be achieved in such a small, narrow area when confronted with the pipeline, firm evidence of the impact of man.

In several portions, Simon offers opportunities for hiking and sightseeing related to scenic and cultural values.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains a stabilized Navajo Refugee Site, as well as scenic values.

Recommendation

This unit does not contain wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study. However, Simon has been identified as an ACEC in the Bureau's San Juan Planning Document, and is scheduled for designation July 1, 1980.



R.9W.
R.8W.
R 7W.
T.32N.
T.31N.
T.30 N.
T.30N.
010-090
010-091
NAVAJO LAKE STATE PARK
PINE RIVER REC. AREA
NAVAJO DAM
ARCHULETA
Navajo Dam P O
Turley
MANZANARES MESA
BURNT MESA
Hog Spring
Anastacio Spring
Baltazar Peak BUTTE 93
To Dulce
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007

SOCORRO DISTRICT

Arlen P. Kennedy, District Manager

Rimrock NM-020-007 24,700 acres
(formerly Cebolla Canyon)

Unit Description

This unit is exceptionally diverse. Landforms include prairie-like grassland, large park-like valleys, extremely rugged box canyons, sandstone cliffs (which rise a vertical 500 feet), the largest natural bridge in New Mexico, the rimrock of Cebollita Mesa and a portion of the forest and park country. Vegetation varies from blue grama grass to pinyon-juniper, to Douglas fir. Elevations vary from 6,900 to 8,300 feet. Rimrock is located approximately 20 air miles southeast of Grants, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, 29,430 acres of BLM-administered land are present within this unit.

NATURALNESS: The Rimrock Unit appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable when considered in the context of the unit as a whole.

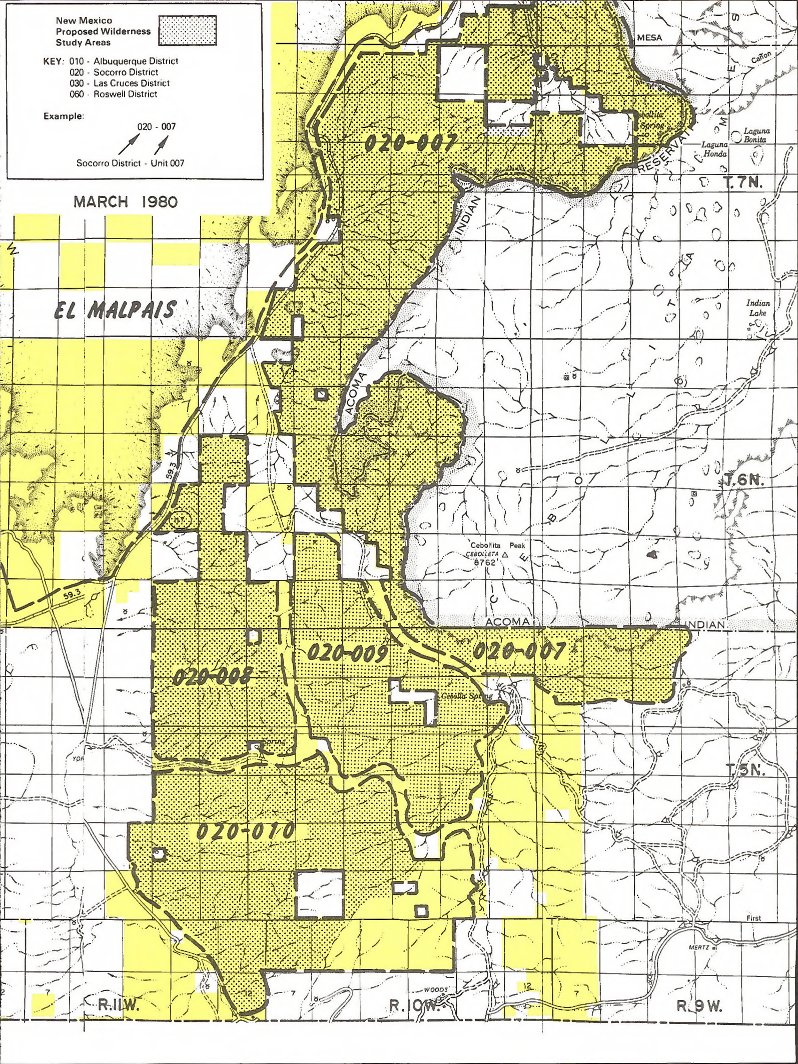
Human intrusions include nine earthen stock tanks, one wooden windmill, 10 miles of barbed wire fencing and nine vehicle trails.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The topographic and vegetative diversity of Rimrock, coupled with the unit's relatively large size, afford human visitors outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities include hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and hunting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The largest natural bridge in New Mexico is located within Rimrock. The unit further contains 51 known archeological sites. Wildlife values are significant.

Recommendation

Intensive wilderness inventory unit NM-020-007 is recommended for WSA status.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
EL MALPAIS
020-007
020-008
020-009
020-010
MESA
RESERVATION
INDIAN
ACOMA
Laguna Honda
Laguna Bonita
Indian Lake
Cebollita Peak
CEBOLLETA
8762'
Cebolla Spring
T.7N.
T.6N.
T.5N.
R.11W.
R.10W.
R.9W.
MERTZ
WOODS
First

Sand Canyon NM-020-008 28,900 acres

Unit Description

This unit is in the New Mexico mesa and canyon country, dominated by three prominent ridges which meet in the unit's center to form a Y-shaped topographic structure. Lying north of this junction between the two opposing ridges is Sand Canyon. The southern half of the unit is dominated by rugged mountains where the unit's highest elevations are achieved. This unit is heavily forested with pinyon-juniper and ponderosa. Elevations range from 7,100 to 8,200 feet. The area is located approximately 33 miles southeast of Grants, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The intensive inventory of Unit 008 disclosed the Sand Canyon, Armijo Canyon and Woods Windmill vehicle access ways to be roads. Consequently, Unit NM-020-008 has been broken into three units: Sand Canyon NM-020-008, 8,320 acres; Little Rimrock NM-020-009, 9,540 acres; Pinon NM-020-010, 13,160 acres.

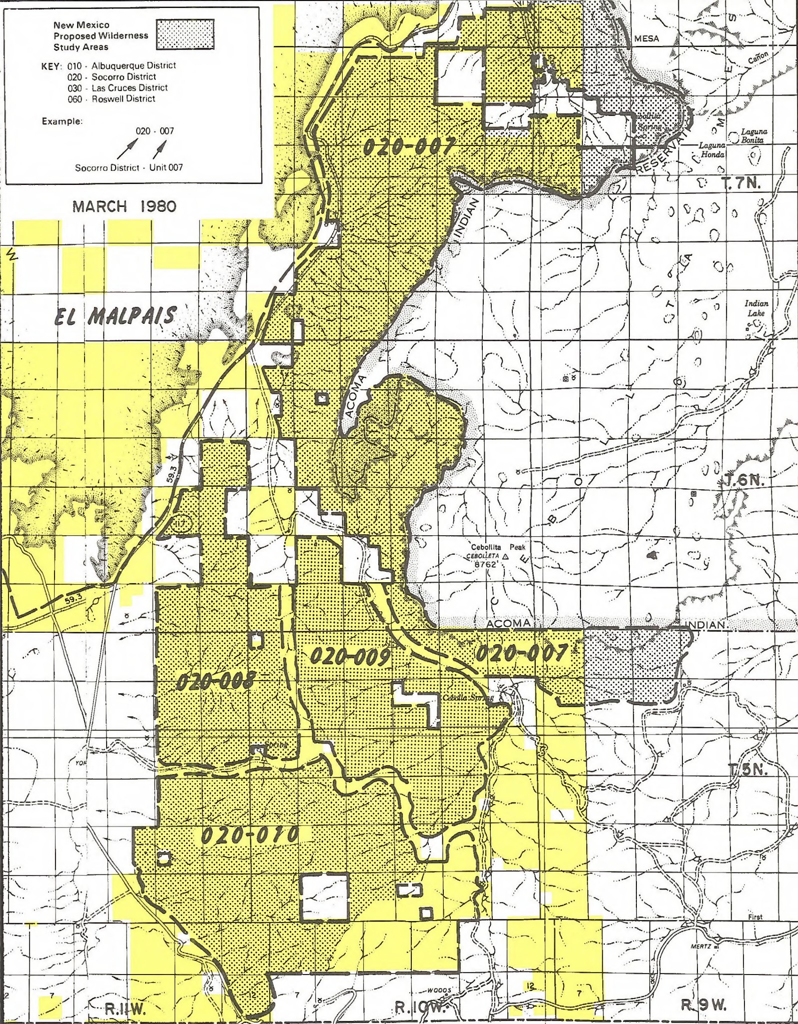
NATURALNESS: With the exclusion of the above roads, all three areas appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable. The only intrusions in NM-020-008 are three earthen stock tanks, 7 miles of fencing and two vehicle ways. Little Rimrock, Unit 009, is virtually pristine. It is impacted only by dim two-track ways, three earthen stock tanks and 5 miles of fencing. Intrusions within Unit 010 include eight vehicle ways, eight earthen stock tanks, and 10 miles of fencing, none of these substantially noticeable.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: All three areas possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. These areas are characterized by considerable topographic relief, a maze of canyons, and excellent vegetative screening. Each of the three areas possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Sand Canyon, Little Rimrock and Pinon possess extremely important archeological resources. Over 70 sites are located within the three units. Wildlife values are very high for raptors, deer, and wild turkey. The three units possess pure stands of old-growth pinon pine.

Recommendation

All three units identified through intensive inventory are recommended for wilderness study.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
EL MALPAIS
020-007
020-009
020-008
020-010
MESA
Cañon
Laguna Honda
Laguna Bonita
Indian Lake
RESERVATION
INDIAN
ACOMA
ACOMA
INDIAN
Cebollita Peak
CEBOLLETA
8762
Cebolla Spring
T.7N.
T.6N.
T.5N.
R.11W.
R.10W.
R.9W.
MERTZ
WOODS
First
59.3
117

Unit Description

Landforms vary from gentle grassland to extremely rugged mesas and canyons. Petaca Pinta dominates the unit. This isolated mountain-like mesa rises a near-vertical thousand feet above the surrounding land. Blue Water Canyon, in the southwest corner of the unit, is a deep and narrow box canyon of considerable size. Petaca Pinta also contains a maze of smaller box canyons, a badlands environment, and a lava flow on the north. Elevation varies from 5,800 to 7,300 feet. Petaca Pinta is located 50 miles west-southwest of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit originally contained 14,800 acres. However, it was necessary to delete approximately 2,360 acres from the unit due to the presence of a road. The remaining unit is 12,440 acres.

NATURALNESS: Unit NM-020-014 is affected primarily by the forces of nature. The imprint of man is not only substantially unnoticeable, it is virtually non-existent throughout the majority of the unit. The core of Petaca Pinta comes close to being pristine in the literal sense.

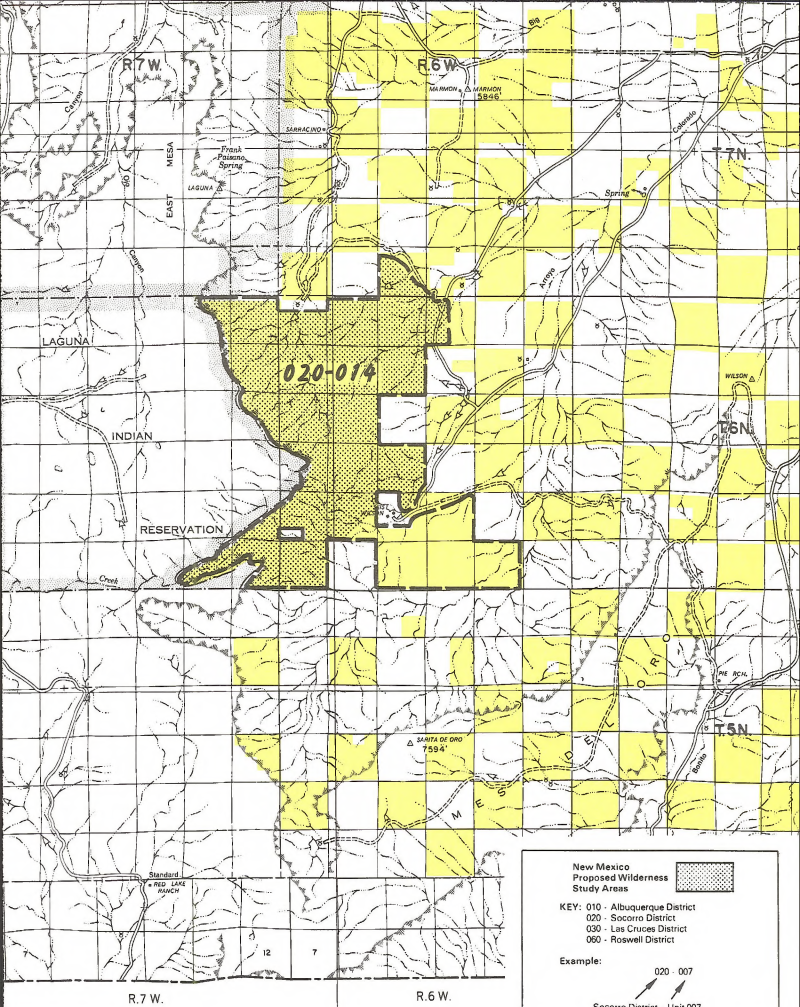
Human intrusions include two earthen stock tanks, two soil stabilization structures and two dim jeep trails.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Extremely difficult access and topographic diversity provide an outstanding opportunity for solitude in the unit. Petaca Pinta also possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation due largely to its scenery, geology and wildlife values.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Petaca Pinta is highly scenic, possesses striking geological formations and provides excellent wildlife habitat.

Recommendation

Wilderness study status is recommended for 12,440 acres of this unit.



New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District

Example:

020 - 007

Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Sierra Ladrones NM-020-016 47,400 acres

Unit Description

The Sierra Ladrones Unit is located 22 miles northwest of Socorro, New Mexico. The unit is generally rugged and broken. It is dominated by Ladrone Mountain, an impressive granitic peak. In addition to its mountains, the Sierra Ladrones unit contains gentle grassland, mesa tops, extensive rimrock formations, rugged canyons and isolated badlands. Elevations range from 5,100 to 9,200 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit was originally 47,400 acres. Boundary adjustments deleted approximately 9,500 acres due to the presence of substantial human impacts (3,500 acres) and a vehicle access way traversing the Rio Salado that has received use for many years (6,000 acres). If the Rio Salado is not used as the unit boundary, the boundary would be located to the south on roads and contiguous to the Cibola National Forest.

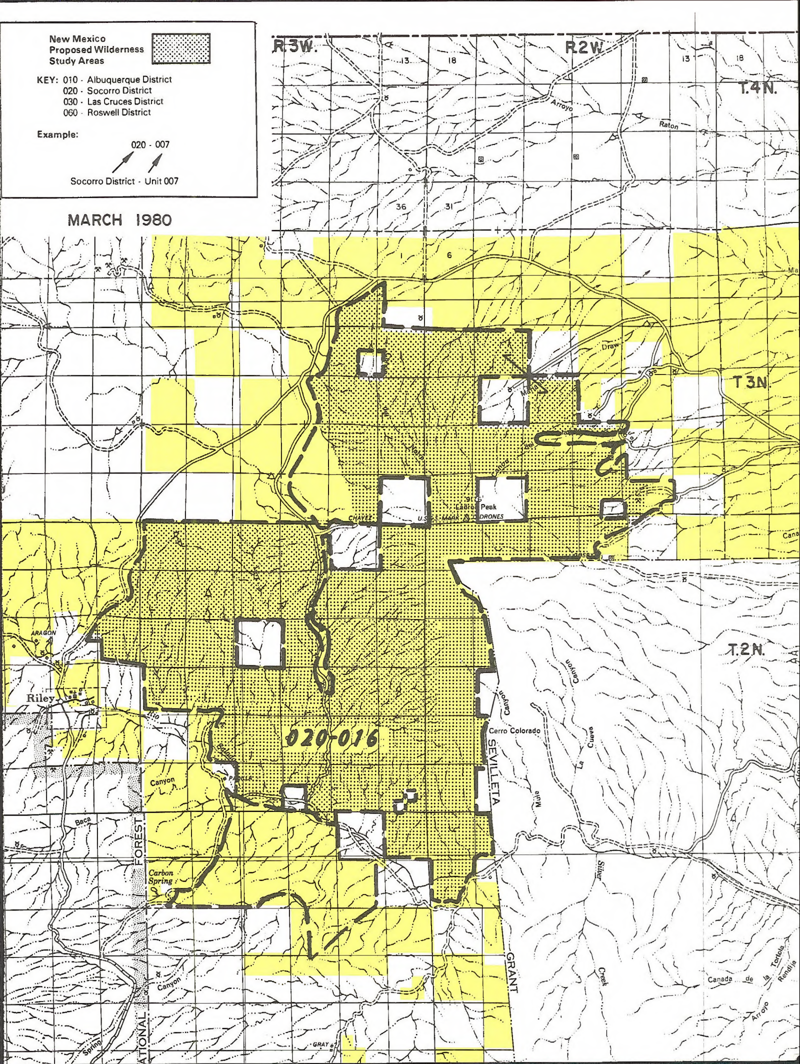
NATURALNESS: The Sierra Ladrones Unit NM-020-016 generally appears natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Human intrusions in this unit include a relatively small number of range developments, 7 mining prospect areas and 14 vehicle ways. Although the imprint of man is present within the area, the size, extreme topographic relief and vegetative screening greatly mitigate the impact and significance of past human influence.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The physical isolation, relatively large size, diverse landforms, great topographic relief, and diversity of vegetation communities assure the human visitor outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic and wildlife values are significant and the ecological diversity of the unit is scientifically important. Archeological sites are also present within the area.

Recommendation

Wilderness Study Area status is recommended for 38,922 acres of the Sierra Ladrones Unit, NM-020-016.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.3W.
R2W.
T.4N.
T.3N.
T.2N.
Arroyo
Raton
Draw
Ladron Peak
CHAVEZ
ARAGON
Riley
Rio
Canyon
Cerro Colorado
SEVILLETA
La
Cueva
Mule
Baca
FOREST
Carbon
Spring
GRANT
Silver
Creek
Canada
de
la
Tortola
Arroyo
Rendija
020-016
GRAY
ATIONAL

Mesita Blanca NM-020-018 27,000 acres

Unit Description

Mesita Blanca is located twenty air miles west of Quemado, New Mexico. The unit is flat to rolling grassland broken by a large cinder cone (Red Hill) and its' lava flow, as well as isolated sandstone and basaltic mesas characterized by vertical cliffs and broken topography. Canyons are not well developed in this unit. Elevations range from 6,400 to 7,700 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The intensive inventory of Mesita Blanca indicated approximately 20,760 acres of BLM administered land possessed wilderness characteristics. The remaining 6,240 acres are bisected by the enormous Farmington to Tucson power transmission line and are impacted by significantly noticeable range developments.

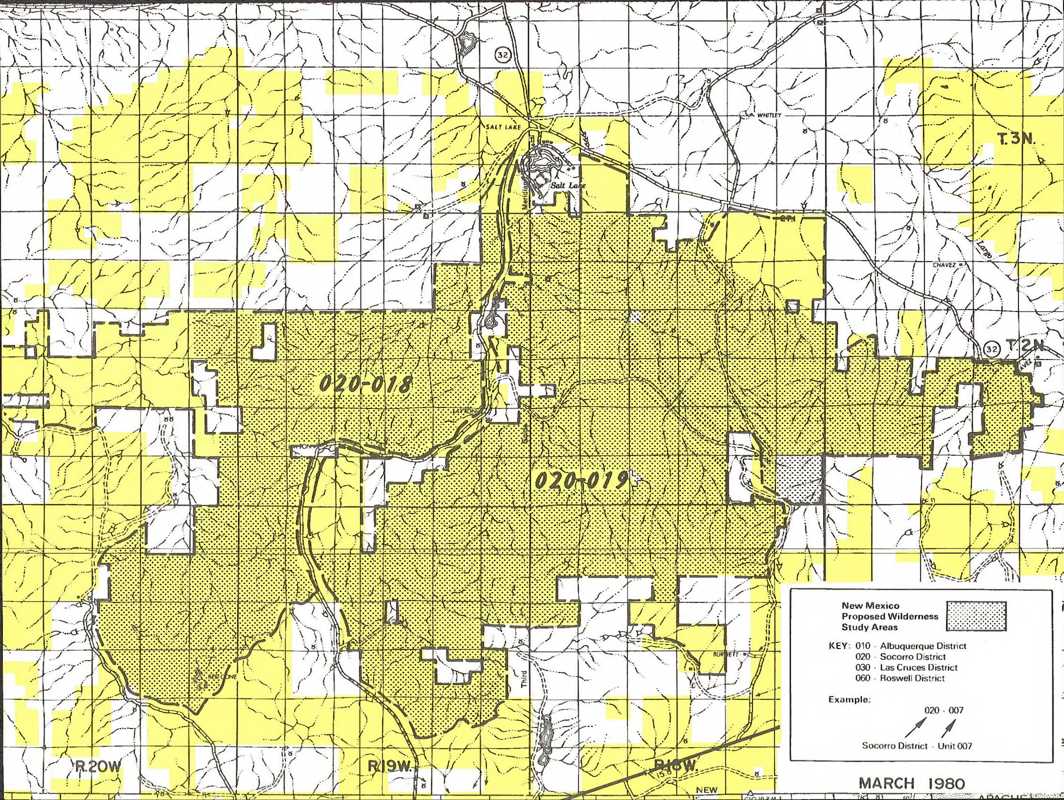
NATURALNESS: Approximately 20,760 acres of the Mesita Blanca unit generally appear natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Human intrusions include ten miles of fencing, five vehicle access ways, one small metal drinking tub and three miles of buried plastic tubing, and eight earthen stock tanks.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The diversity of landforms (i.e., lava flows, isolated mesas, rolling grassland) and extreme isolation of this inventory unit afford human visitors an outstanding opportunity for the experience of solitude. Recreational opportunities are very good.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Wildlife values are high; golden eagle and prairie falcon nest in the unit, antelope are plentiful, and mule deer common. Red Cone and its lava flow possess high scenic values. Finally, significant archaeological sites are located within the unit.

Recommendation

Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status is recommended for 20,760 acres of Mesita Blanca Unit.



SALT LAKE
Salt Lake
Meridian
WHITLEY
CHAVEZ
Largo
32
T.3N.
T.2N.
020-018
020-019
RED CONE
Third
BURNETT
R.20W
R19W.
R18W.
NEW
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Eagle Peak NM-020-19 45,200 acres

Unit Description

This highly diverse unit contains large, well-defined canyons, an extensive labyrinth of sandstone and basaltic cliffs, a series of cinder cones, relatively recent lava flows, old growth pinyon-juniper forests and prairie-like grassland. One of the cinder cones, Cerro Pomo, is very large. Elevations range from 6,400 to 7,550 feet. The Eagle Peak Unit is located 6 air miles west of Quemado, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Boundary adjustment resulted in dropping 2,680 acres of the unit's original 45,200 acres. These adjustments were made to exclude unnatural portions of the unit and to rectify extremely illogical segments of the boundary.

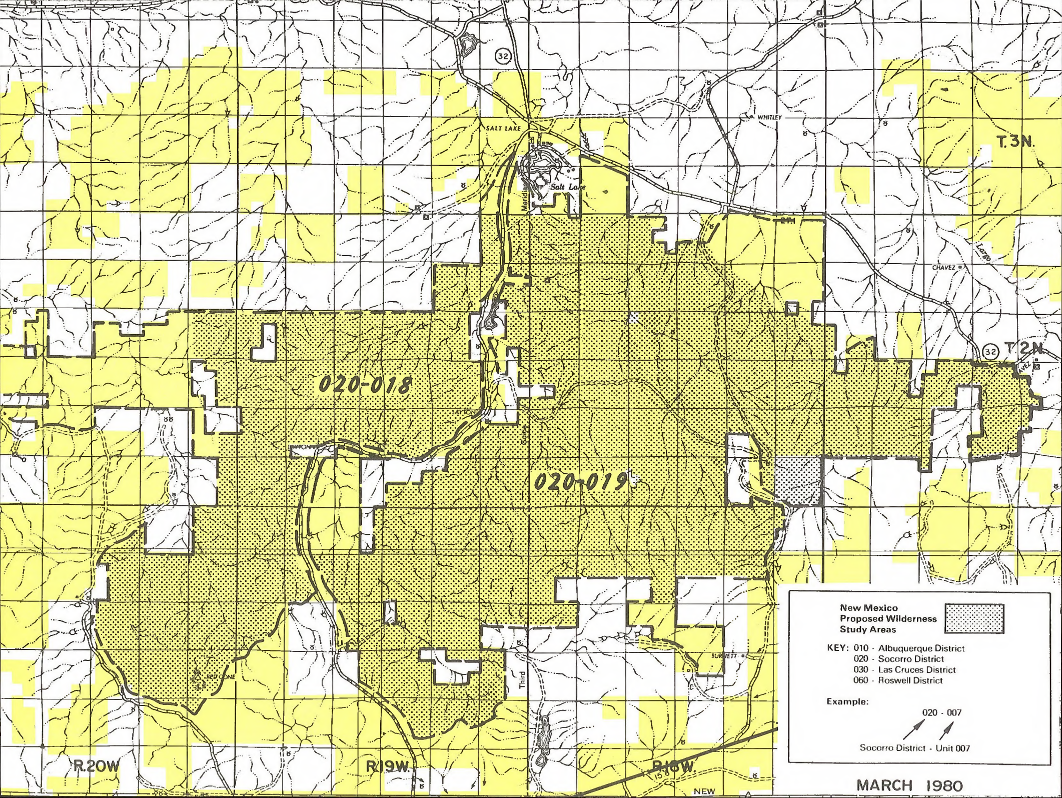
NATURALNESS: The Eagle Peak Unit appears to have been primarily affected by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. Human intrusions, after excluding the 2,680 acres, include 28 miles of fencing, 14 vehicle ways, 6 earthen stock tanks, 4 miles of buried plastic tubing and an associated small metal stock drinker.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The relatively large size and topographic and vegetative diversity of the Eagle Peak Unit ensures the human visitor outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archeological resources are significant in the area. High wildlife and scenic values are also present.

Recommendation

Wilderness study status is recommended for 42,520 acres of Eagle Peak Unit.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
020-018
020-019
T.3N.
T.2N.
R.20W
R.19W.
R.18W.
32
SALT LAKE
Salt Lake
Meridian
WHITLEY
CHAVEZ
Largo
BURNETT
Third
RED CONE
NEW

Shoemaker NM-020-027B 7,760 acres

Unit Description

Shoemaker is located 16 air miles southwest of Zuni, New Mexico. The topography of the unit can be characterized as typical New Mexico mesa and canyon lands; elevations range from 7,000 to 7,700 feet within the area. The dominant vegetation is pinyon pine and one-seeded juniper combined with expanses of open grassland in the wide canyon bottom.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: A road is present within Shoemaker which divides it into 2 areas approximately 3,200 and 4,560 acres in size. Neither portion of the unit meets the size requirement.

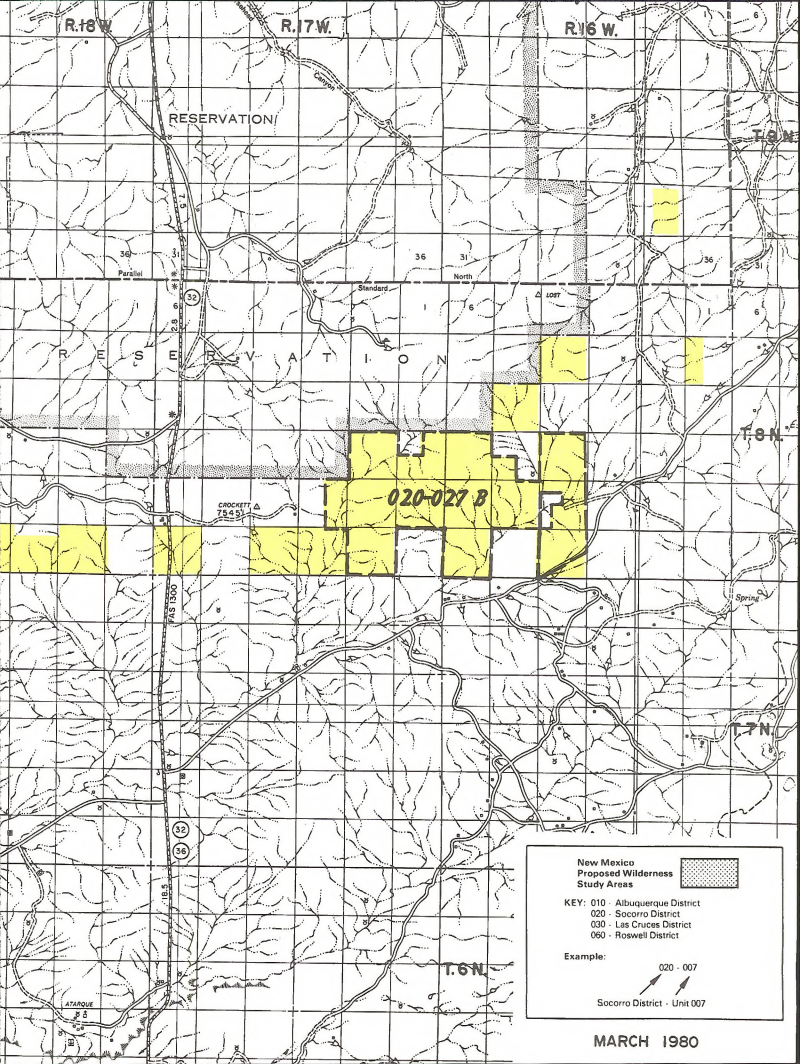
NATURALNESS: The imprint of man is substantially unnoticeable within the 2 roadless areas which comprise the Shoemaker Unit. Human intrusions include 1 mile of barbed wire fencing, 2 earthen stock tanks, and 2 vehicle ways.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Shoemaker is comprised of mesa and canyon landforms; although the elevation range is not great, the profusion of canyons, draws, ridges, and mesas combined with a mature pinyon-juniper forest provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Recreational opportunities are not considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Two archaeological sites are present within Shoemaker; the unit also possesses scenic values.

Recommendation

Shoemaker is recommended to be dropped from further wilderness consideration, due to a road which divides the unit into 2 units, both less than 5,000 acres.


R.18W.
R.17W.
R.16W.
RESERVATION
Canyon
T.9N.
Parallel
Standard
North
LOST
CROCKETT
7545
R E S E R V A T I O N
T.8N.
020-027 B
Spring
FAS 1300
T.7N.
T.6N.
ATARQUE
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

Veranito is located approximately 4 air miles to the northeast of Socorro, New Mexico. Unit topography is primarily flat to rolling upper Chihuahuan desert cut by shallow arroyos. A series of rugged hills are located on the east. The dominant vegetative type is creosote bush. Veranito also includes approximately 1 mile of the east bank of the Rio Grande River which provides habitat for riparian tree species such as cottonwood. Elevations range from 4,600 to 5,400 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Revised acreage estimate for this unit is 7,480 acres. No boundary adjustments were made as a result of intensive inventory.

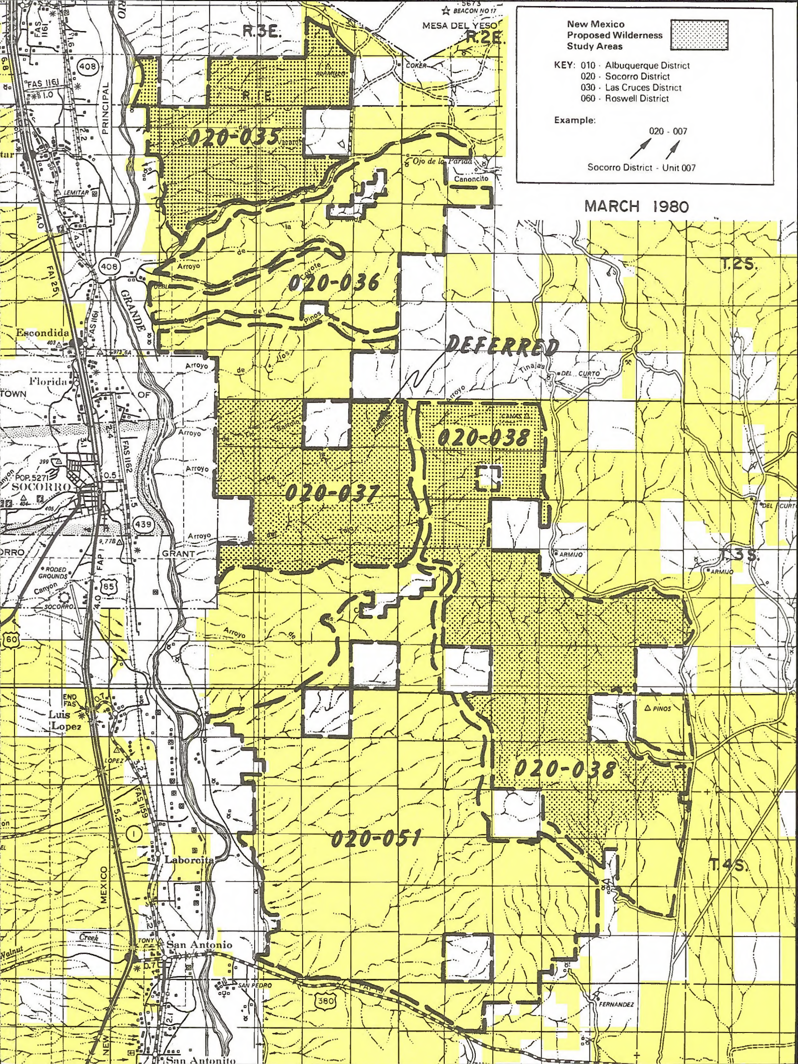
NATURALNESS: This unit appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man remaining substantially unnoticeable. The only human impacts include 6 miles of fencing, two little used vehicle access routes, one earthen stock reservoir, one small metal stock drinker and approximately 1 mile of associated buried plastic pipe.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Veranito provides sufficient topographic relief to offer the visitor an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Outstanding recreational opportunities are lacking.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archeological sites are located within the unit. Wildlife values include riparian associated plant and animal species and a small deer herd.

Recommendation

Veranito is recommended for Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
MESA DEL YESO
BEACON NO 17
R.3E.
R.2E.
T.2S.
T.3S.
T.4S.
020-035
020-036
020-037
020-038
020-038
020-051
DEFERRED
Ojo de la Parida
Canoncito
COKER
LEMITAR
Escondida
Florida
SOCORRO
POP. 5271
Luis Lopez
Laborcita
San Antonio
San Antonito
SAN PEDRO
FERNANDEZ
ARMIJO
DEL CURTO
PINOS
CAÑAS
Arroyo
Tinajas
GRANDE
PRINCIPAL
MEXICO
NEW
GRANT
TOWN
OF
FAS 1161
FAS 1162
FAS 1159
FAI 25
FAP 1
408
439
85
60
380
Walnut
Creek

Unit Description

Presilla is located east of the Rio Grande River approximately 3 air miles from Socorro, New Mexico. Elevation varies from 4,600 to 5,450 feet. The area is dominated by high Chihuahuan desert vegetation, most noticeably creosote bush. The topography of Presilla includes vegetation-stabilized sand dunes, steep walled arroyos, rugged north-south trending ridges and small scenic box canyons.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit covers 12,800 acres. Approximately 3,800 of this acreage is unnatural. This leaves approximately 9,000 acres within the unit.

NATURALNESS: Presilla appeared to be affected primarily by the forces of nature prior to road building which occurred between September 1978 and June 1979. Human impacts, prior to FLPMA, included several miles of two track ways, a few isolated mining prospect pits and 4 miles of fencing.

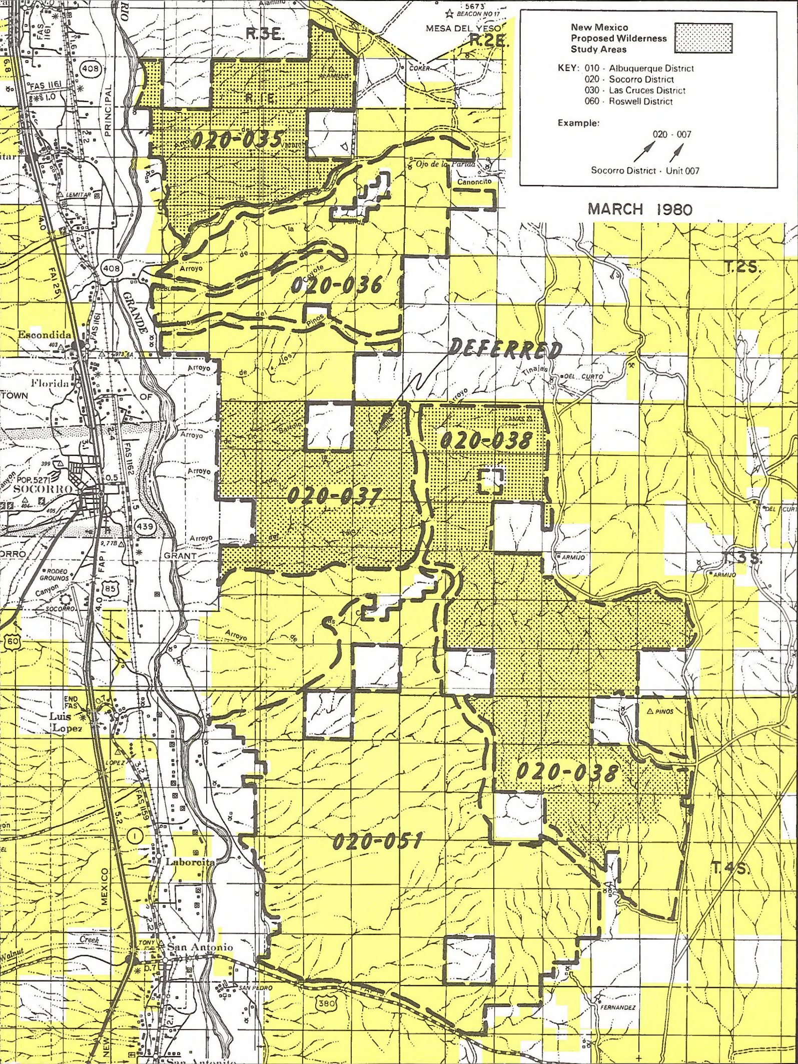
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit possesses outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Opportunities for solitude are good.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: An important archeological site is located within Presilla. In addition, two box canyons are present which are highly scenic and natural in appearance.

Recommendation

Due to the presence of approximately 5 miles of mining access roads, this unit's wilderness characteristics have been seriously degraded. Therefore, Presilla cannot at this time be recommended for WSA status. However, because the disqualifying human intrusions occurred after passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and because the area possesses unique supplemental values, it is recommended that the final decision on approximately 9,000 acres be deferred to give the BLM time to evaluate Presilla's rehabilitation potential as well as the possibility of affecting an alternative means of protection on all or a portion of approximately 9,000 acres of Unit NM-020-037.

The previously mentioned 3,800 acres of this unit lacks naturalness. This portion of the unit is recommended to be dropped from further wilderness consideration.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
020-035
020-036
DEFERRED
020-037
020-038
020-038
020-051
R.3E.
R.2E.
R.1E.
T.2S.
T.3S.
T.4S.
MESA DEL YESO
SOCORRO
Escondida
Florida
Luis Lopez
Laborcita
San Antonio
RIO GRANDE

Unit Description

The unit is dominated by an extremely rugged desert mountain range, the Sierra Las Canas, which is characterized by near vertical sheer rock escarpments and deep narrow canyons. Vegetation ranges from black grama grass and creosote bush through pinyon-juniper. Unit elevation is from 5,100 to 6,200 feet. The area is located approximately 7 air miles east of Socorro, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

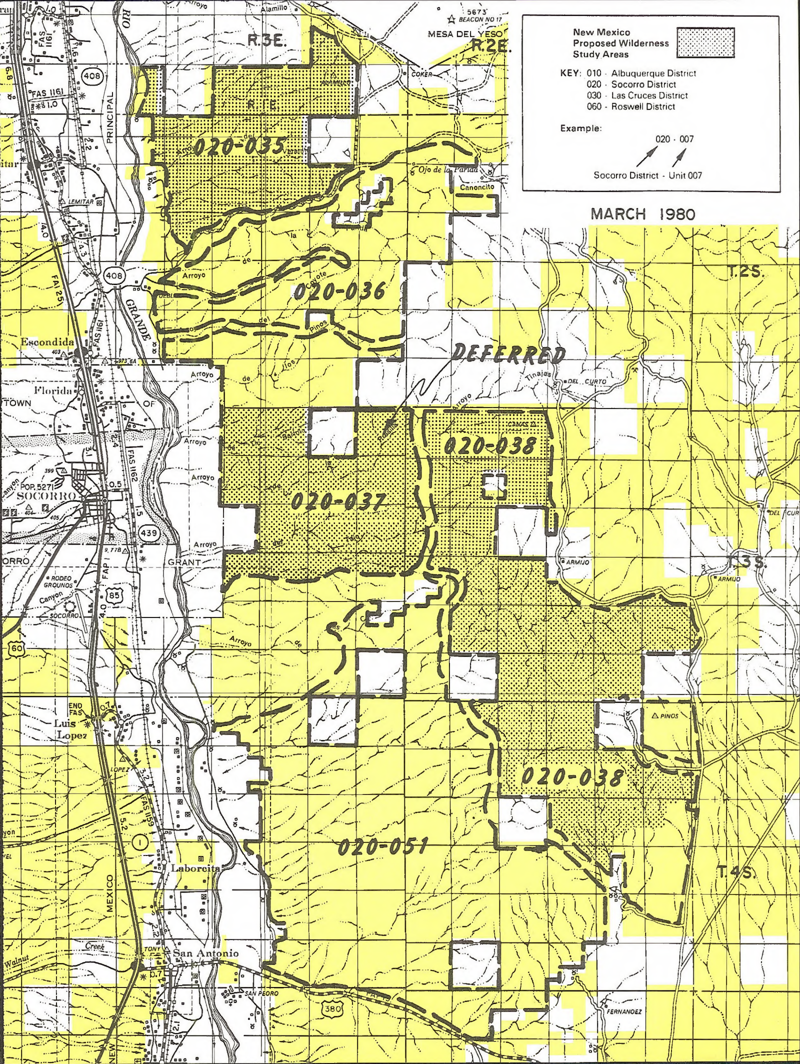
SIZE: Minor boundary adjustments due to substantially noticeable intrusions required the deletion of approximately 2,250 acres from the unit.

NATURALNESS: The Sierra Las Canas Unit certainly appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature. All human intrusions within it are substantially unnoticeable. They include a handful of prospect pits, four two-track ways, two small metal stock drinkers, and two earthen stock tanks.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This area offers human visitors outstanding opportunities for both solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The Sierra Las Canas is located in an extremely isolated region and is dominated by a rugged, broken, and undifferentiated desert mountain range which presents the human visitor with an environment of considerable beauty which is rarely entered by anyone.

Recommendation

The Sierra Las Canas Unit is recommended for Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status. Proposed WSA acreage is 16,750 acres.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
020-035
020-036
DEFERRED
020-037
020-038
020-038
020-051
R.3E.
R.2E.
R.1E.
T.2S.
T.3S.
T.4S.
MESA DEL YESO
BEACON NO 17
Alamillo
COKER
Ojo de la Parida
Canoncito
Escondida
Florida
TOWN OF GRANT
SOCORRO
POP. 5271
LEMITAR
Luis Lopez
Laborcita
San Antonio
SAN PEDRO
FERNANDEZ
RIO GRANDE
ARMIJO
DEL CURTO
PINOS
RODEO GROUNDS
Walnut Creek
NEW MEXICO
FAI 25
FAS 1161
FAS 1162
FAS 1159

Unit Description

This is an arid, mountainous unit dominated by sharply eroded, often near vertical escarpments, long north-south trending ridges, and a series of canyons and associated arroyos. Unit elevation ranges from 5,500 to 7,100 feet. The area is located 14 miles east of Socorro, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a more refined estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried in Unit NM-020-040 is 42,700.

NATURALNESS: This area seems to possess outstanding naturalness qualities from some observation points within the unit. However, Stallion is impacted by a substantial number of human intrusions. Their cumulative impact is believed by the BLM to be substantially noticeable.

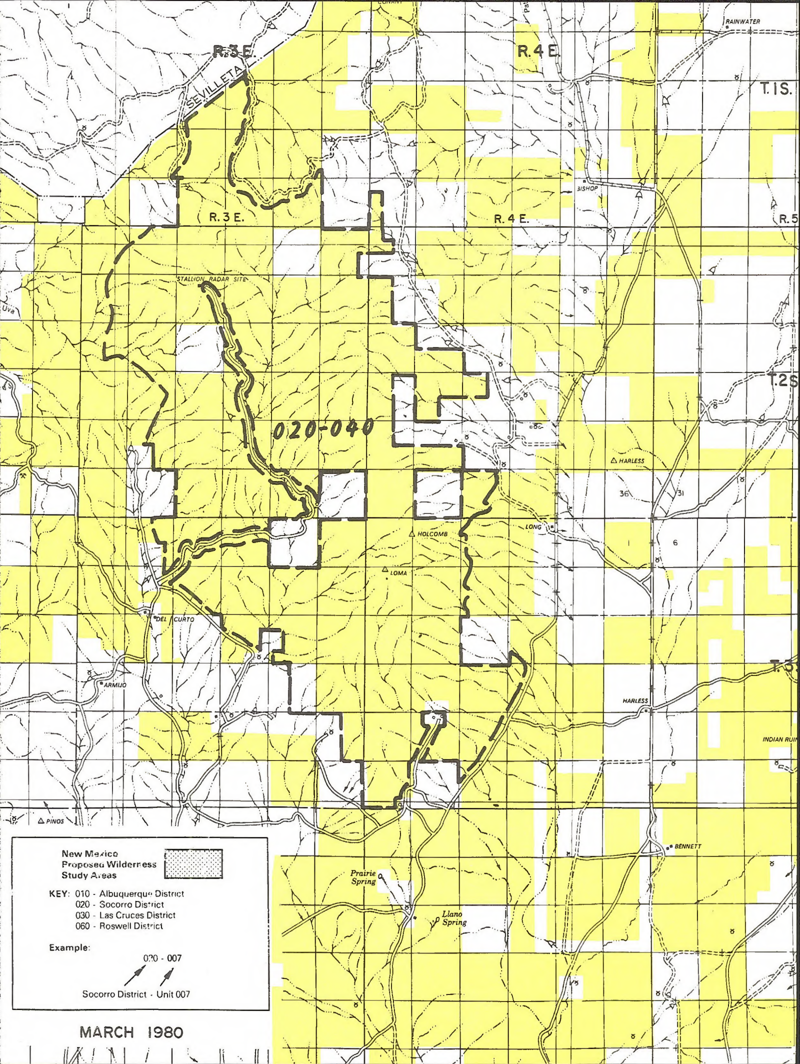
These intrusions include nearly 100 bulldozer constructed mining prospect pits, 2 windmills, 6 earthen stock tanks, 4 erosion control structures, a micro-wave reflector structure and 20 vehicle access ways which total over 40 miles in combined length.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Outstanding opportunities for solitude are present within the Stallion Unit. Outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are believed to be lacking.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Stallion includes an escarpment 1,000 vertical feet in height on its east face which is highly scenic. In addition, the area is known to support a small herd of wild horses.

Recommendation

It is recommended this unit be dropped from further consideration. This is due to the presence of what are believed to be substantially noticeable human intrusions within the unit which impair its wilderness characteristics. The judgment of the unit's wilderness characteristics was difficult. The WSA recommendation of this unit was derived after much discussion by BLM personnel. Due to the importance of the decision and difficult judgments, public comments on this unit's wilderness characteristics are especially encouraged.



R.3E.
R.4 E.
RAINWATER
T.1S.
SEVILLETA
R.3 E.
R.4 E.
BISHOP
R.5
STALLION RADAR SITE
Uva
T.2S
020-040
HARLESS
36
31
LONG
HOLCOMB
1
6
LOMA
DEL CURTO
ARMIJO
HARLESS
INDIAN RUI
PINOS
BENNETT
Prairie Spring
Llano Spring
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Horse Mountain NM-020-043 5,040 acres

Unit Description

The Horse Mountain Unit is a rugged and broken isolated mountain peak rising abruptly out of the Plains of San Augustine. It is characterized by high vertical cliffs, steep and rocky mountain slopes, deep canyons and heavy forest. Interspersed throughout the dominately rugged landforms are small, park-like meadows. Elevations vary from 6,700 to 9,200 feet. The unit is located 25 miles south of Pie Town, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimates, this unit has been found to contain 5,140 acres.

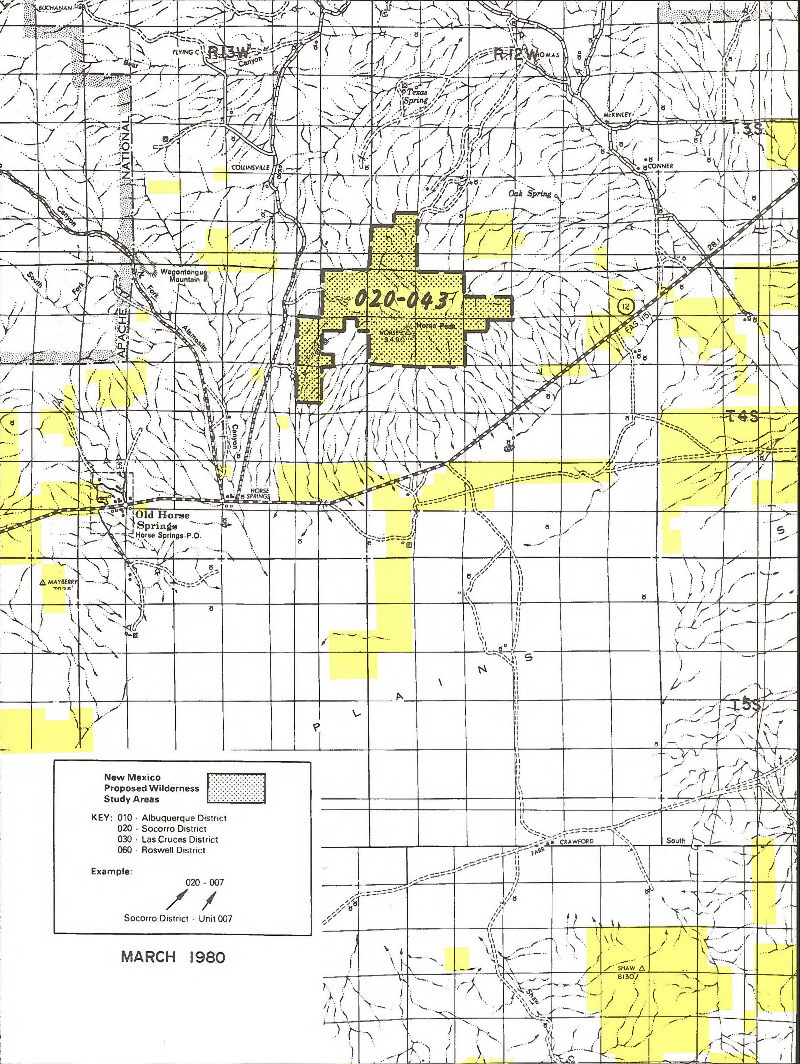
NATURALNESS: Horse Mountain appears natural with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. The only human intrusions include two vehicle access ways which are rarely used and would soon disappear if closed and a number of ponderosa pine stumps which remain from a selective logging operation which took place 30 years ago.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit offers human visitors outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation. The extreme topographic relief, diversity of landforms, heavy forest environment and Horse Mountain's physical isolation ensure the presence of such opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit is rich in supplemental values. Horse Mountain is highly scenic. Wildlife values are significant for deer, black bear, mountain lion, wild turkey, golden eagle and other raptors. The area also still possess virgin ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest types.

Recommendation

The Horse Mountain Intensive Wilderness Inventory Unit is recommended for Wilderness Study Area (WSA) status.


BUCHANAN
FLYING C
R.13W.
Bear
Canyon
R.12W.
THOMAS
Texas Spring
McKINLEY
T.3S.
CONNER
COLLINSVILLE
NATIONAL
APACHE
Oak Spring
Canyon
Wagontongue Mountain
South
Fork
N. Fork
281
020-043
12
FAS 1151
Alamosito
Horse Peak
HORSE
9490
T.4S.
Canyon
HORSE SPRINGS
Old Horse Springs
Horse Springs P.O.
MAYBERRY
S
P L A I N S
T.5S.
FARR
CRAWFORD
South
SHAW
8130
Shaw
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Continental Divide	NM-020-044	58,000 acres
(Formerly Pelona and Divide)	045	18,000 acres

Unit Description

Continental Divide, unit 020-044/045, lies 29 miles south of Datil, New Mexico. The unit is bisected by the Continental Divide, and the topography ranges from high mountain peaks to rugged canyons to vast expanses of mountain prairie and rolling grassland. The dominant topographic feature is Pelona Mountain which encompasses 50,000 acres and elevations ranging from 7,000 to 9,300 feet. Vegetation varies from blue grama prairie to ponderosa and limber pine through aspen and mixed conifer forest. One corner of the unit is contiguous with the Gila National Forest to the south.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: 72,200 acres are proposed for WSA status. The intensive inventory of Units NM-020-044 and NM-020-045 indicated the vehicle access route which divides the two units fails to meet the BLM road definition; therefore, the Pelona and Divide units have been united into a single proposed Wilderness Study Area.

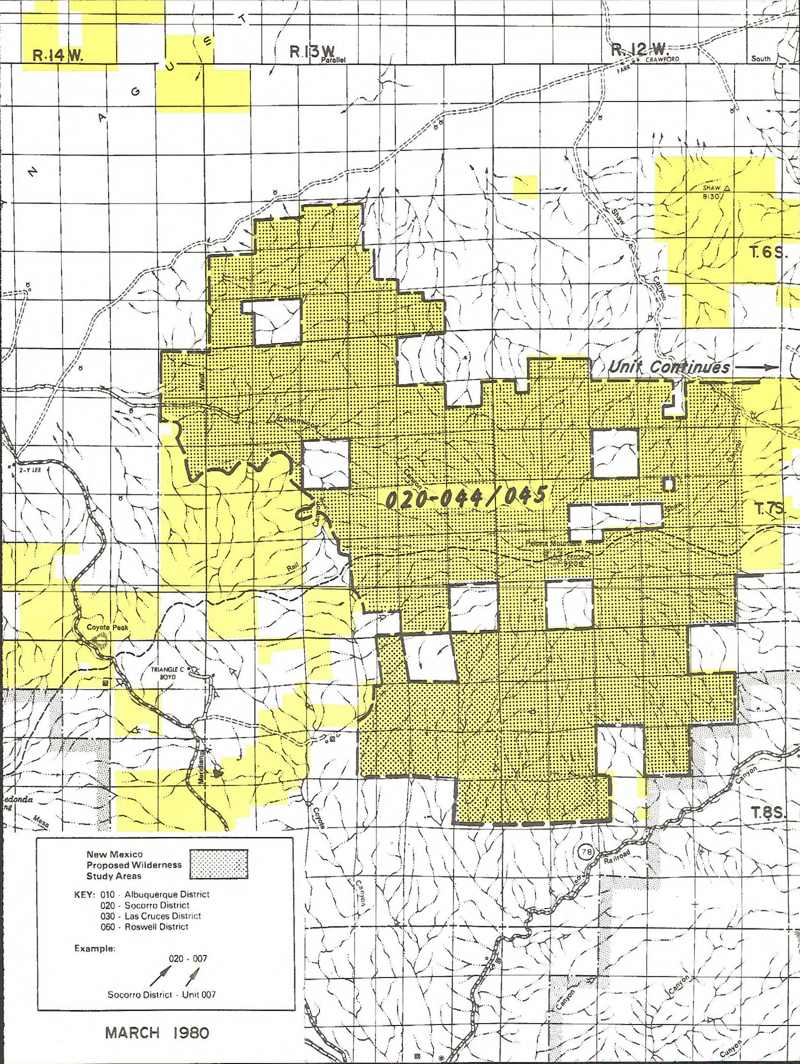
NATURALNESS: The proposed Continental Divide WSA without question appears natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. The only impacts are a handfull of range improvements, a series of old bulldozer scars (fire breaks and former jeep trails) which most often are difficult to even find, and eight two-track ways.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The large size, topographic diversity, vegetative screening, considerable beauty, and extremely isolated location of the Continental Divide Unit provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation.

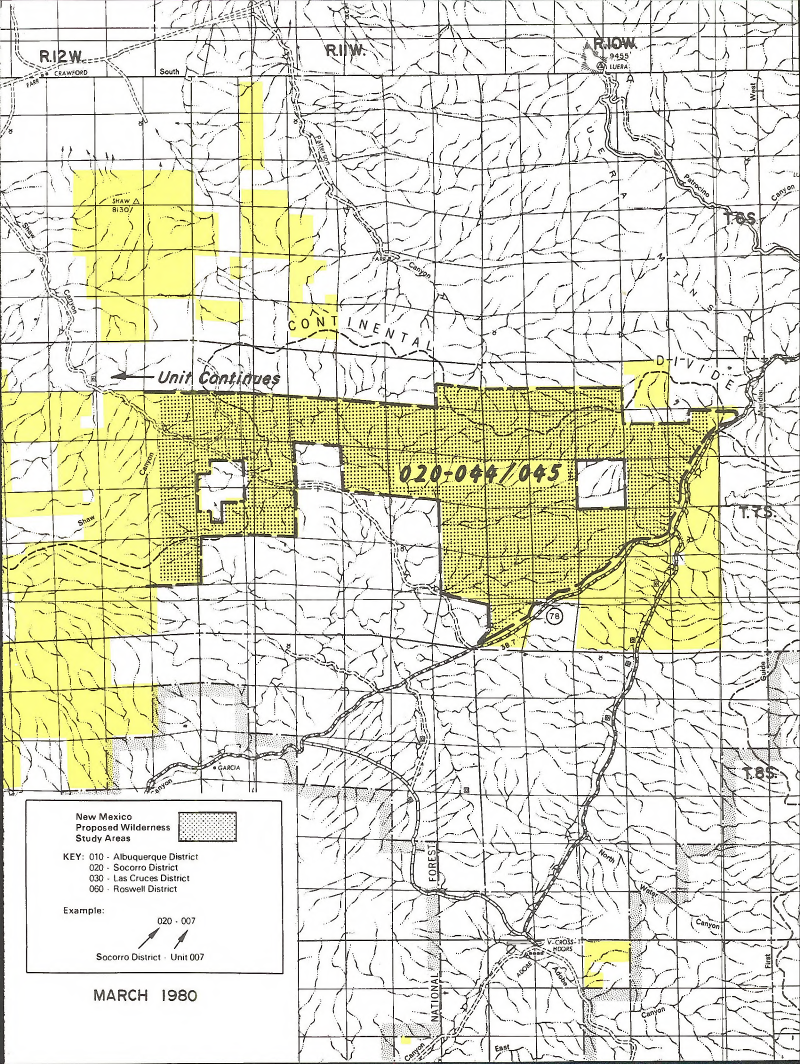
SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This area is highly scenic, provides some of the finest antelope habitat in the Southwest and serves as prime winter habitat for bald eagle. Archeological sites are present in the unit.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Pelona (NM-020-044) and Divide (NM0020-045) Intensive Inventory Units be combined to form the 72,200 acre Continental Divide Wilderness Study Area (WSA).



R.14 W.
R.13 W.
R.12 W.
Parallel
South
FARR
CRAWFORD
N A G U S T
SHAW 8130
Shaw
Canyon
T.6S.
T.7S.
T.8S.
Unit Continues
West
Cottonwood
Canyon
Canyon
020-044/045
Shaw
Pelona Mountain
PELONA 9209
Rail
2-Y LEE
Coyote Peak
TRIANGLE C
BOYD
Meridian
Coyote
Canyon
Railroad
78
Canyon
Canyon
Canyon
Canyon
Mesa
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980


R.12W.
R.11W.
R.10W.
9455
LUERA
CRAWFORD
FARR
South
SHAW
8130
Shaw
Canyon
Patterson
FARR
Canyon
LUERA MTNS
Patrocino
Canyon
West
T.6S.
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
Unit Continues
020-044/045
Meridian
T.7S.
Shaw
Canyon
78
38.7
Guide
T.8S.
GARCIA
Canyon
FOREST
NATIONAL
North
Water
Canyon
V-CROSS-T
HDQRS
ADOBE
Adobe
Canyon
First
East
Canyon
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Devil's Backbone	NM-020-047A	9,200 acres
	B	1,140 acres

Unit Description

The Devil's Backbone is appropriately named. It rises abruptly from the surrounding desert grassland to culminate in sharp knife-like ridges and stark, rocky peaks. Elevations range from 5,000 to 8,000 feet. The Devil's Backbone consists of the rugged and broken southern flank of the Magdalena Mountains. The units are contiguous to the Cibola National Forest's Ryan Hill RARE II Unit which is recommended for further planning. The units are located approximately 17 miles west of San Antonio, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried in Unit NM-020-047A is 8,860 and 1,200 acres for 47B. Approximately 360 acres of 47B are recommended dropped due to a lack of naturalness.

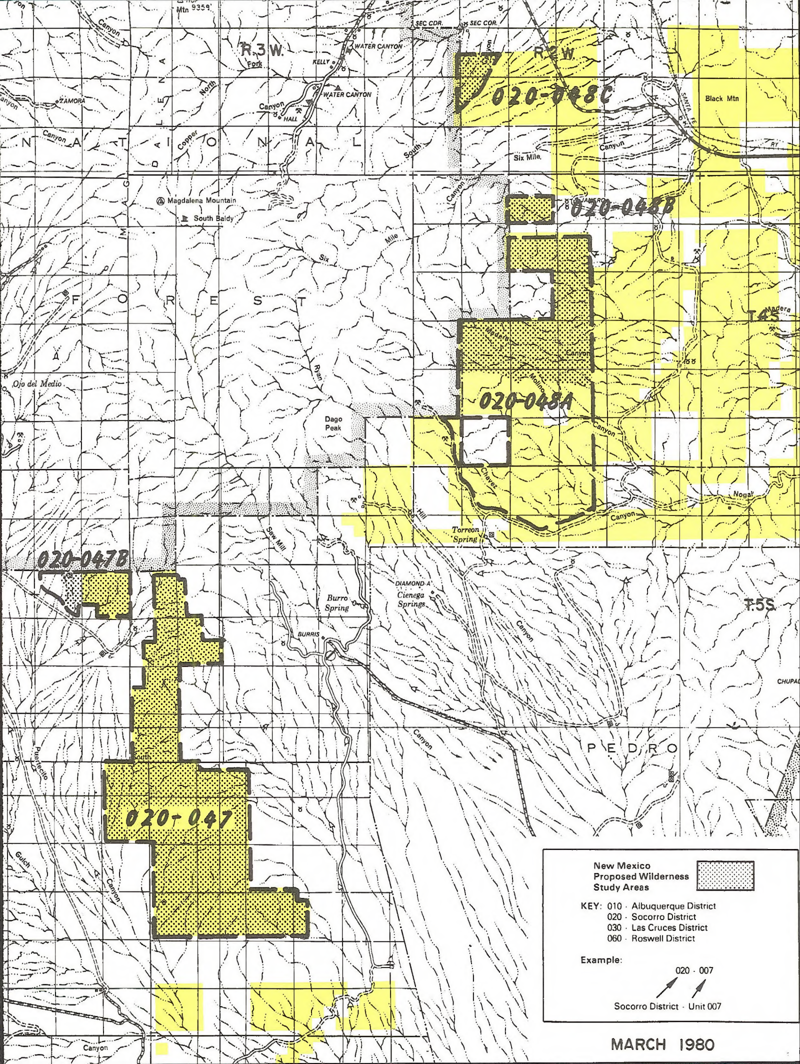
NATURALNESS: Intrusions within NM-020-047A include 7 miles of fencing, three vehicle access ways and one earthen stock tank. However, due to the extreme topographic relief throughout the unit, these intrusions are not substantially noticeable. There are no intrusions in 47B after excluding 360 acres which contained two vehicle ways, a metal stock tank and buried plastic pipe.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive recreation are present in the two units due to their isolation and mountainous character.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Scenic values are high. Golden eagle nest in the unit and deer populations are high.

Recommendation

Wilderness Study Area status is recommended for Devil's Backbone, NM-020-047A, and for 840 acres of 47B.


R.3W.
R.2W.
020-048C
020-048B
020-048A
020-047B
020-047
Magdalena Mountain
South Baldy
WATER CANYON
KELLY
ZAMORA
HALL
SEC COR.
Black Mtn
Six Mile
Dago Peak
Ojo del Medio
Torreon Spring
DIAMOND A
Cienega Springs
Burro Spring
BURRIS
T.4S.
T.5S.
PEDRO
CHUPAD
N A T I O N A L
F O R E S T
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Magdalena A, B, and C	NM-020-048A	8,800 acres
	B	320 acres
	C	400 acres

Unit(s) Description

The three Magdalena units are located approximately 9 air miles southwest of Socorro, New Mexico and are contiguous to the Ryan Hill RARE II Further Planning Unit on the Cibola National Forest. The units form a portion of the foothills of the Magdalena Mountains. Topography includes rolling grass-covered hills, numerous arroyos and several large canyons. The dominant vegetative type is grass, but pinyon, juniper and several species of oak are present. Elevations vary from 5,700 through 7,200 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Approximately 3,640 of the 8,800 acres in NM-020-048A appear to be natural with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable. The remaining 5,160 acres have an unnatural appearance due to the presence of a series of mining prospects and associated access routes. All 320 acres of 048B and all 400 acres of 048C appear to be natural with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable.

Although the Magdalena units are all less than 5,000 acres in size, they are adjacent to the U. S. Forest Service Ryan Hill Further Planning (RARE II) Unit. Therefore, they meet the BLM's size criteria.

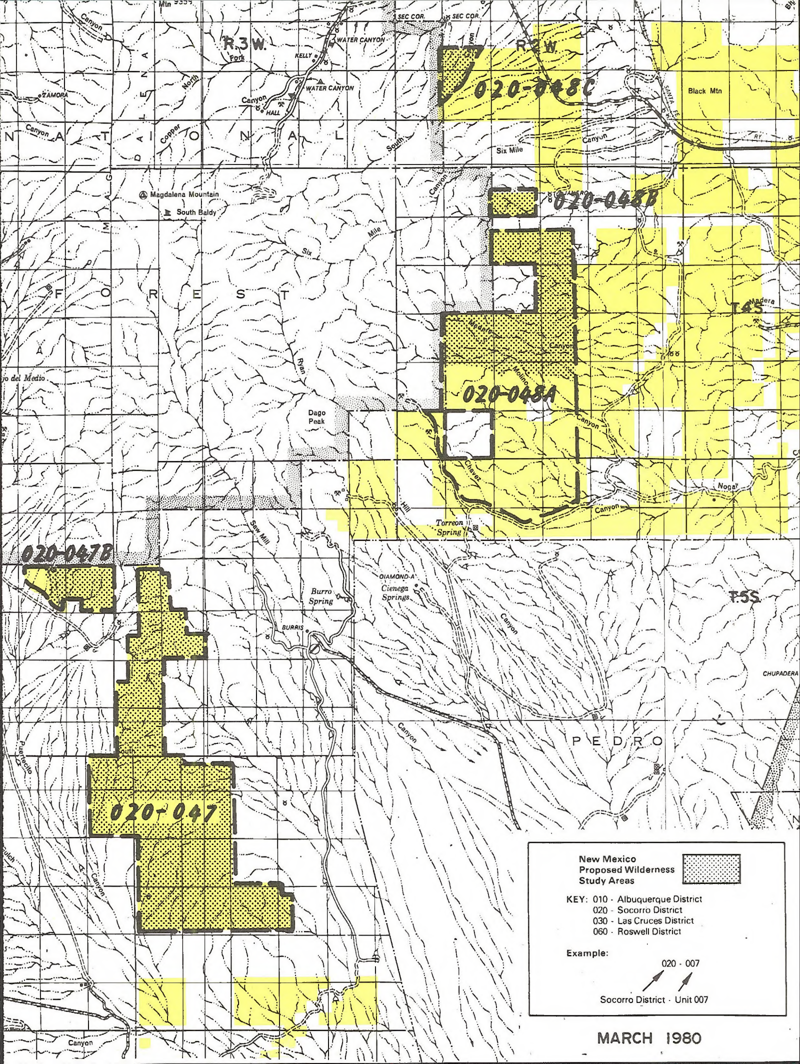
NATURALNESS: Human intrusions within Unit NM-020-048A include two dim vehicle access ways which are not substantially noticeable. Intrusions within 48 B include one substantially unnoticeable vehicle access way; there are no intrusions in 48C. All three units appear to be natural.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: When considered independent of the Forest Service's Ryan Hill Further Planning (RARE II) Unit, none of the Magdalena areas can be considered to possess outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. When considered with Ryan Hill, however, outstanding opportunities are present in both categories in the three areas.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Wildlife values are significant in NM-020-048A.

Recommendation

Wilderness Study status is recommended for 3,640 acres of NM-020-048A, 320 acres of Unit NM-020-048B and 400 acres of Unit NM-020-048C.



R.3W.
R.2W.
SEC COR.
WATER CANYON
KELLY
ZAMORA
HALL
Black Mtn
SANTA FE
Six Mile
Canyon
N A T I O N A L
F O R E S T
MAGDALENA
Magdalena Mountain
South Baldy
Six Mile
Ryan
Madera
Molino
Dago Peak
Chavez
Nogal
Torreon Spring
T.4S.
T.5S.
Saw Mill
Burro Spring
BURRIS
DIAMOND A
Cienega Springs
CHUPADERA
P E D R O
020-048C
020-048B
020-048A
020-047B
020-047
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

This unit is located 5 air miles southeast of Socorro, New Mexico and 4 air miles northeast of San Antonio, New Mexico. Padilla is dominated by high Chihuahuan desert vegetation. Elevation ranges from 4,600 to 5,700 feet. Topography varies from nearly flat desert mesas bounded by arroyos of considerable size, to large well-developed sand dunes, hills, canyons, and mountain terrain.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The unit contains 24,800 acres. However, a buried telephone cable, natural gas pipeline, roads, and stock developments reduce the unit's acreage to approximately 16,000 acres.

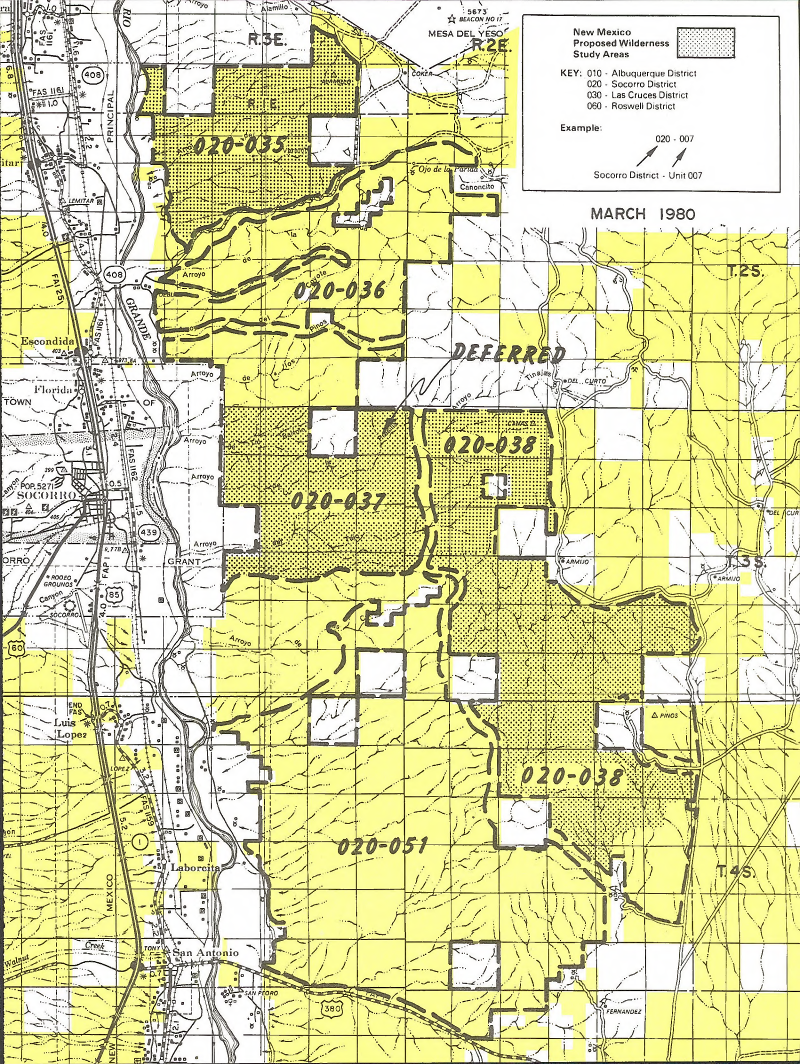
NATURALNESS: The central core of Padilla, which is approximately 16,000 acres in size, appears natural. Human intrusions within this portion include only three vehicle ways, 3 miles of buried plastic tubing, one small drinking tub, and 17 miles of barbed wire fencing. The remaining 8,800 acres have been significantly impacted by man and appear unnatural.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit lacks both outstanding opportunities for solitude and for primitive and unconfined types of recreation. The majority of Padilla consists of relatively flat desert land cut by occasional steep arroyos. The area fails to provide adequate topographic or vegetative screening for human visitors. In addition, Padilla lacks any natural surface water sources as well as any outstanding physical features.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A number of archeological sites are present within this unit.

Recommendation

Padilla fails to meet the outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation criteria and, therefore, should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
020-035
020-036
DEFERRED
020-037
020-038
020-038
020-051
R.3E.
R.2E.
R.1E.
T.2S.
T.3S.
T.4S.
MESA DEL YESO
Escondida
Florida
SOCORRO
Luis Lopez
Laborcita
San Antonio
RIO GRANDE
Ojo de la Parida
Canoncito
DEL CURTO
ARMIJO
FERNANDEZ
SAN PEDRO
GRANT

Antelope (Formerly Little Yucca) | NM-020-053 | 20,800 acres

Unit Description

This is a rolling desert prairie environment. Elevations range from 4,765 to 5,065 feet. The dominant vegetative type is desert grassland with typical species including black grama, alkali sacaton, sand sage, yucca, and creosote bush; the latter species is present only on the gravelly east slopes of San Pascual Mountain. The Antelope Unit is contiguous to the San Pascual Wilderness Area located on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Unit NM-020-053 is adjacent to this existing wilderness area's entire east boundary for a distance of approximately 13 air miles. Antelope is located 6 air miles southeast of San Antonio, New Mexico.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: A small boundary adjustment was necessary to exclude an electric power line from the unit. This leaves a unit size of 20,710 acres.

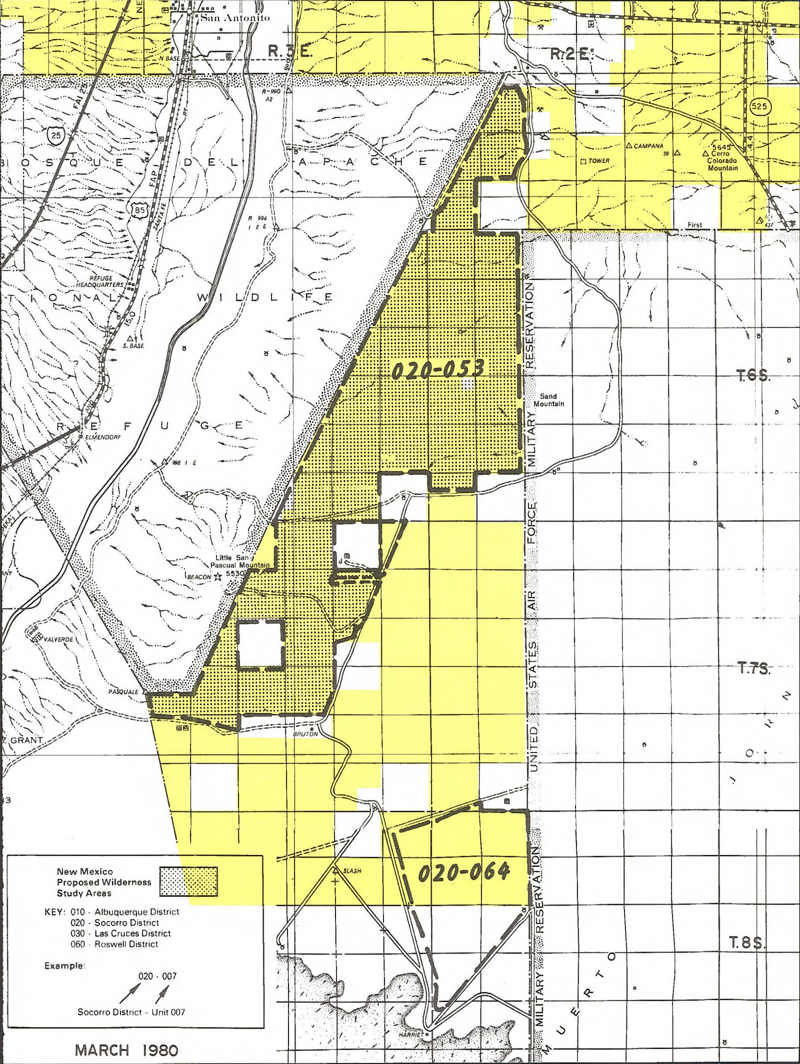
NATURALNESS: Antelope appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable. Intrusions include 4 miles of barbed wire fencing, 3 two-track vehicle ways, 2 small metal drinking tubs, and 1 small earthen reservoir.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The Antelope Unit is extremely isolated and rarely visited. Despite its lack of topography, it is sufficiently large and sufficiently rolling to screen human visitors one from another. In fact, the area provides the experience of extreme isolation in a big, expansive desertland environment. The Antelope Unit, therefore, possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outstanding recreational opportunities are limited to hiking and backpacking.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit is prime antelope and raptor habitat.

Recommendation

Wilderness study status is recommended for 20,710 acres of this unit.


San Antonito
R.3E.
R.2E.
N BASE
R-990
A2
FAI 25
25
525
CAMPANA
TOWER
5645
Cerro
Colorado
Mountain
First
BOSQUE DEL APACHE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE
FAP
85
SANTA FE
R 994
I 2 E
REFUGE
HEADQUARTERS
15.0
S. BASE
ELMENDORF
998 I E
020-053
Sand
Mountain
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MILITARY RESERVATION
T.6S.
T.7S.
T.8S.
Little San
Pascual Mountain
5530
BEACON
VALVERDE
PASQUALE
BRUTON
GRANT
SLASH
020-064
HARRIET
JORNADA DEL MUERTO
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

This unit is located approximately thirty-five miles south-southwest of Socorro, New Mexico. The area is rolling to flat creosote desert cut by numerous shallow arroyos and washes which run east and out of the unit into the floodplain of the Rio Grande River. Elevation ranges from 4,500 to 4,800 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Intensive wilderness inventory unit NM 020-056A is 10,700 acres in size. However, the presence of two roads cut the unit into three separate areas, all of which are less than 5,000 acres in size.

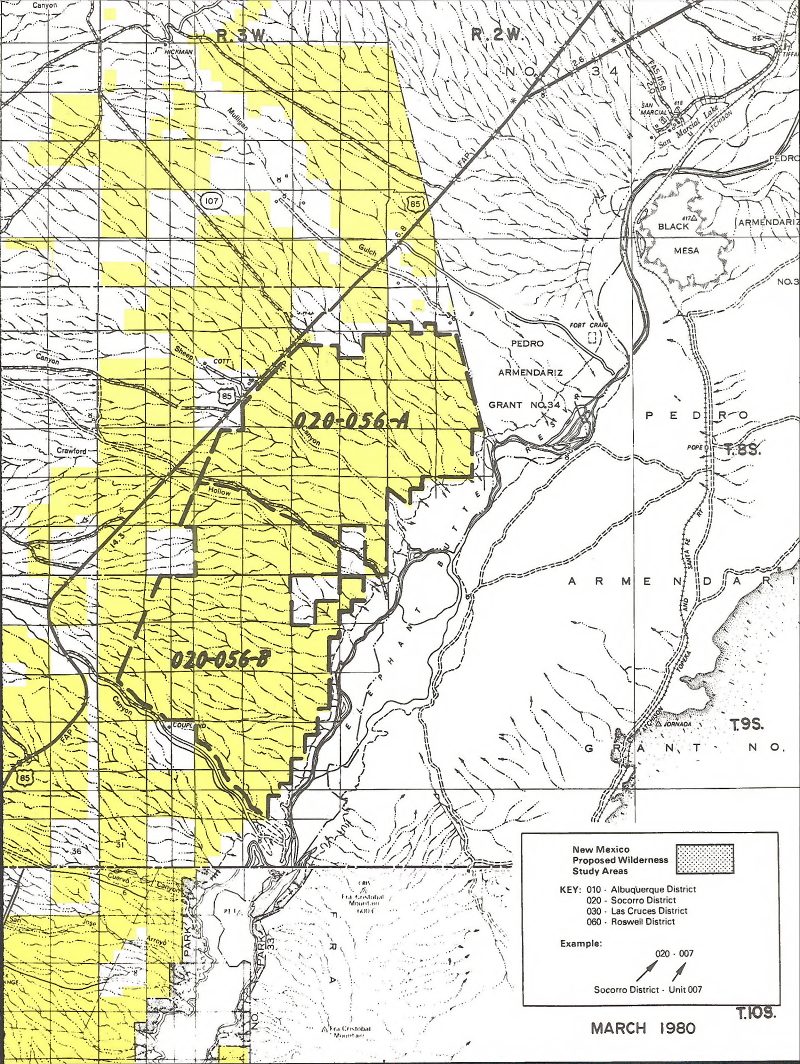
NATURALNESS: Portions of Lumbre appear natural; however, the close proximity of roads to virtually every acre within it combined with the lack of significant topographic relief and vegetative diversity produce an environment which overall appears unnatural.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The close proximity of roads, lack of topographic relief, and monotonous creosote desert environment within this inventory unit fails to provide either an outstanding opportunity for solitude or for recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archaeological sites may be present within the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.


R.3W.
R.2W.
HICKMAN
Mulligan
107
85
Gulch
Sheep
COTT
Canyon
Crawford
Hollow
020-056-A
020-056-B
COUPLAND
FAP
SAN MARCIAL
San Marcial Lake
BLACK MESA
ARMENDARIZ
FORT CRAIG
PEDRO ARMENDARIZ GRANT NO.34
P E D R O
POPE
T.8S.
A R M E N D A R I
ELEPHANT BUTTE RES
SANTA FE RY
JORNADA
T.9S.
G R A N T N O.
Cuervo Canyon
San Jose Arroyo
Fra Cristobal Mountain
T.10S.
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

Crawford Hollow is located approximately thirty-two miles north-northeast of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Unit topography is rolling to flat with numerous shallow canyons and washes which drain eastward and out of the unit into the floodplain of the Rio Grande River. The dominant vegetative type is creosote bush. Elevations vary from 4,400 to 4,900 feet.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Intensive Wilderness Inventory Unit 056B is 12,240 acres in size. However, numerous roads within the unit divide it into a series of areas all less than 5,000 acres in size.

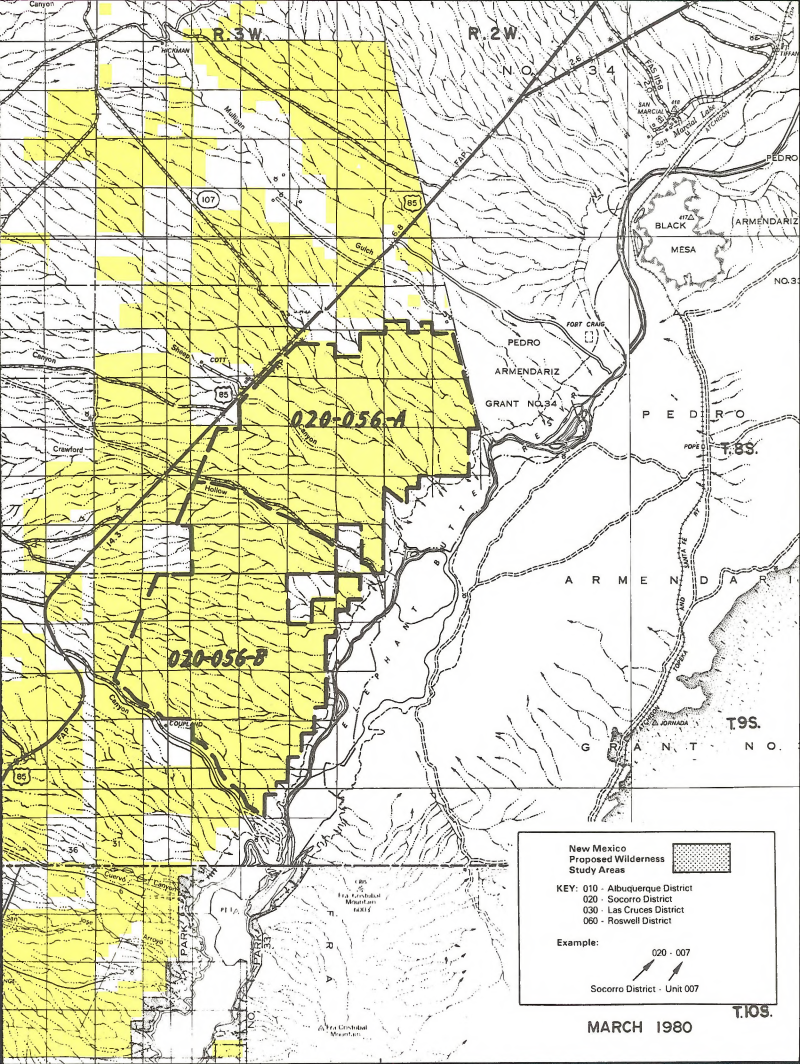
NATURALNESS: Crawford Hollow not only is crisscrossed by many miles of roads and vehicle ways, it contains numerous stock developments. Overall, its appearance is unnatural.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The presence of numerous human intrusions, lack of topographic relief and low growing vegetative cover deny human visitors either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Archaeological sites may be present within the unit.

Recommendation

Crawford Hollow Unit NM 020-056B lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.


R.3W.
R.2W.
NO. 34
HICKMAN
Mulligan
Gulch
SAN MARCIAL
San Marcial Lake
ATCHISON
FAS 1158
PEDRO
BLACK
MESA
ARMENDARIZ
NO.33
FORT CRAIG
PEDRO
ARMENDARIZ
GRANT NO.34
Sheep
COTT
Canyon
020-056-A
020-056-B
Crawford
Hollow
P E D R O
POPE
T.8S.
A R M E N D A R I
ELEPHANT BUTTE
RES
SANTA FE
TOPEKA
ATCHISON
JORNADA
T.9S.
G R A N T N O.
COUPLAND
Canyon
Cuervo
Canyon
San Jose
Arroyo
Fra Cristobal Mountain
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
T.10S.
MARCH 1980

Canyon NM-020-061 8,300 acres

Unit Description

The Canyon Unit is located thirteen miles northwest of Monticello, New Mexico. The topography can be characterized as rolling hills broken by unnumerable draws, arroyos, and several large canyons. Elevations range from 6,300 to 7,300 feet. The dominant vegetation is blue grama grassland with scattered stringers of pinyon and juniper. A portion of the Canyon Unit is contiguous to the Gila National Forest.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Necessary boundary adjustments due to the presence of an electric power line and other nearby impacts reduced the effective inventory unit acreage to approximately 7,800 acres.

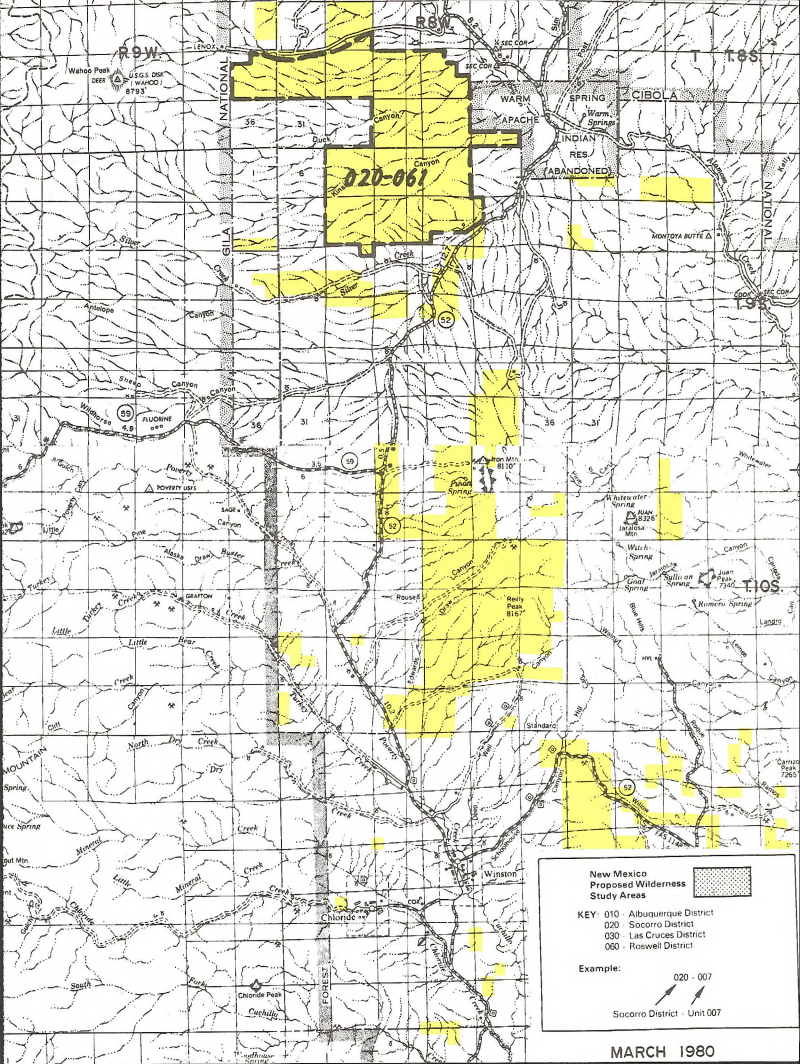
NATURALNESS: Overall, the Canyon unit appears natural. Human intrusions include two vehicle ways.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The grassland vegetation combined with the small size and irregular boundary of the unit produce an area which lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude. The unit also lacks outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Canyon is excellent antelope habitat. Raptors are also abundant.

Recommendation

Due to its lack of outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, it is recommended that the Canyon unit, NM020-061, be dropped from further wilderness consideration.



R9W.
R8W.
T.8S.
T.9S.
T.10S.
LENOX
Wahoo Peak
DEER
U.S.G.S. DISK (WAHOO)
8793
SEC COR
WARM SPRING APACHE INDIAN RES. (ABANDONED)
Warm Springs
CIBOLA NATIONAL
GILA NATIONAL FOREST
020-061
MONTOYA BUTTE
FLUORINE
Iron Mtn. 8110'
Pinon Spring
Whitewater Spring
JUAN 8326'
Jaralosa Mtn.
Juan Peak 7340
Reilly Peak 8167'
Rouse
GRAFTON
SAGE
POVERTY USFS
Standard
Winston
Chloride
COX
Chloride Peak
Carrizo Peak 7265'
Landro
MOUNTAIN
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Big Yucca NM-020-064 5,900 acres

Unit Description

Big Yucca is located 34 air miles southwest of Socorro, New Mexico. The unit consititutes the extreme northern range of tree-size soap-tree yucca (Yucca elata). This species attains heights approaching 30 feet within the unit. The topography of the unit is flat as indicated by the uniform elevation range of 4,730 to 4,760 feet. Landforms include desert flats, large sand dunes and sand blow out areas. Range condition is excellent with species such as Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) present.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Revised estimates place the unit's acreage at approximately 5,460.

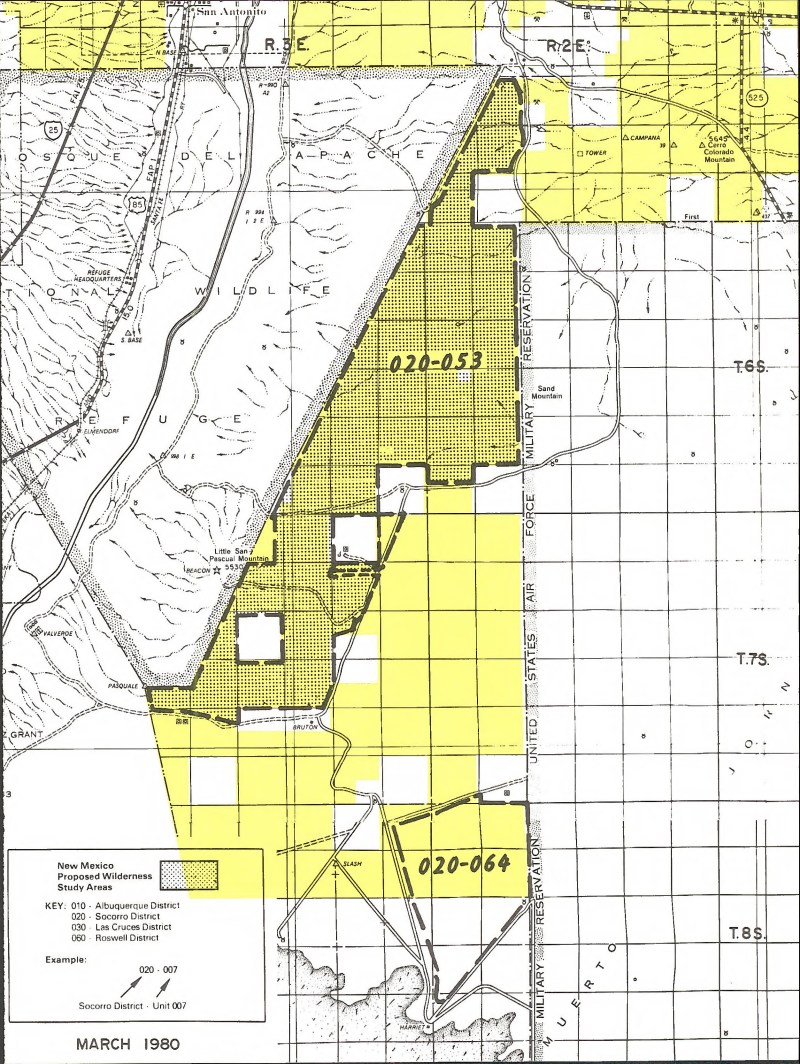
NATURALNESS: Big Yucca appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature. The sole human intrusion in this unit is a small metal stock drinker and approximately 1 1/2 miles of associated buried plastic tubing. This impact is substantially unnoticeable.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Because of the lack of topographic relief, coupled with the unit's relatively small size, outstanding opportunities for solitude do not exist in this unit. It is also felt the area does not possess outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The large soap-tree yucca which characterize the Big Yucca unit give the visitor the impression of walking through a forest. This plant species adds considerable aesthetic values to the unit. Wildlife values are high for antelope and raptors.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Unit NM-020-064, Big Yucca, be dropped from further wilderness consideration. However, it is recognized the area's supplemental values deserve further protection. The feasibility of designating Big Yucca an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) is being explored.



San Antonito
R.3E.
R.2E.
525
CAMPANA
TOWER
5645
Cerro Colorado Mountain
First
BOSQUE DEL APACHE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
25
85
REFUGE HEADQUARTERS
S. BASE
ELMENDORF
020-053
Sand Mountain
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MILITARY RESERVATION
T.6S.
T.7S.
T.8S.
Little San Pascual Mountain
BEACON 5530
VALVERDE
PASQUALE
BRUTON
SLASH
HARRIET
020-064
JORNADA DEL MUERTO
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007

MARCH 1980

LAS CRUCES DISTRICT

Daniel C. B. Rathbun, District Manager

Rodeo NM-030-001 5,600 acres

Unit Description

This area is located in the Southern Peloncillo Mountains approximately 4 miles NE of Rodeo, NM. Most of the unit consists of steep north and west facing slopes sparsely vegetated with desert shrub.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit contains 5,600 acres of public land. There are no private or state inholdings.

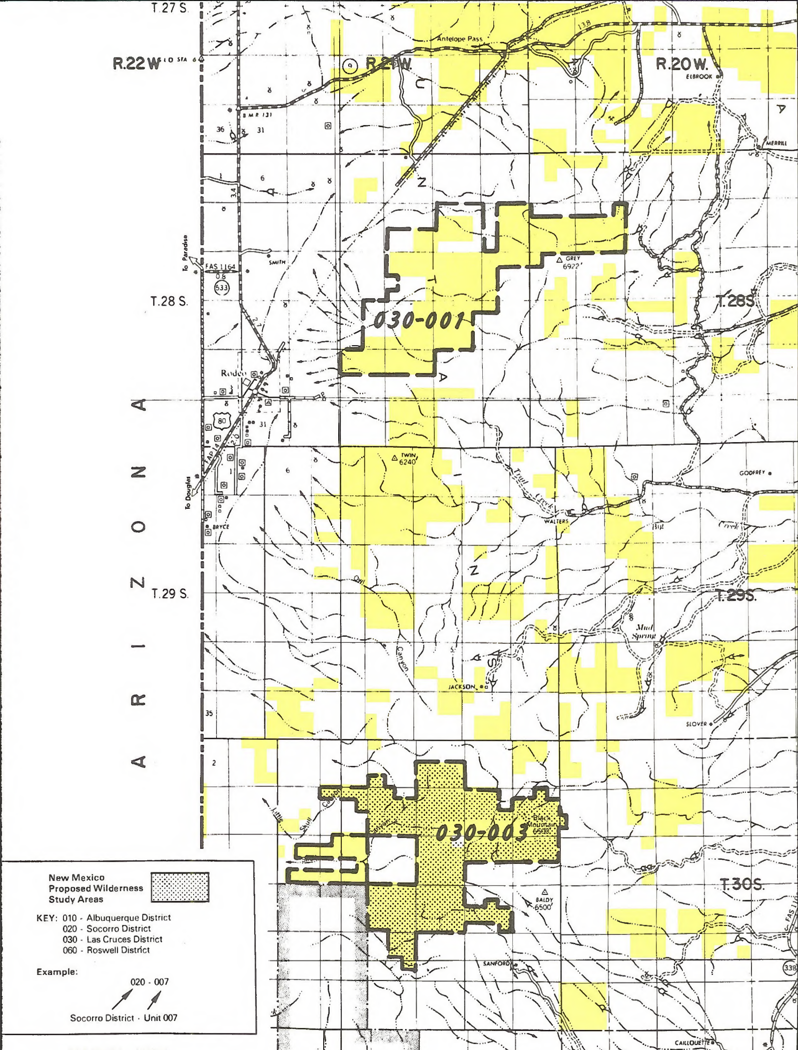
NATURALNESS: The unit lacks naturalness. Imprints of man within the unit include approximately 5 miles of jeep trails, a windmill, 2 dirt tanks, a drinking tub, and shack. These improvements are located in the flats in the northwestern and western parts of the unit. They are neither vegetatively or topographically screened and are substantially noticeable from the west and NW facing slopes. They cumulatively impact the naturalness of the unit.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The constricted configuration of the unit in combination with the lack of any topographic unity causes these opportunities to be less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit may provide habitat for threatened and endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness study.


T.27 S.
R.22 W.
R.21 W.
R.20 W.
Antelope Pass
ELBROOK
MERRILL
To Paradise
FAS 1164
533
SMITH
T.28 S.
T.28 S.
GREY 6922'
030-001
Rodeo
80
To Douglas
BRYCE
TWIN 6240
GODFREY
Trail Creek
WALTERS
Big Creek
Owl Canyon
T.29 S.
T.29 S.
Mud Spring
JACKSON
SLOVER
ARIZONA
Little Skull Canyon
030-003
Black Mountain 6500'
BALDY 6500'
T.30 S.
SANFORD
338
CAILLOUETTE
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Black Mountain NM-030-003 6,560 acres

Unit Description

Located in the Southern Peloncillo Mountains approximately 10 miles southeast of Rodeo, New Mexico, this unit contains steep mountainous topography with elevations from 5,500 ft. to 6,500 ft. Vegetation ranges through piedmont desert grassland, Madrean oak woodlands, interior chaparral and pinyon-juniper woodlands as the elevation increases.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimates, this unit contains 6,480 acres of public land. Six-hundred and eighty acres of BLM land contiguous to the Coronado National Forest are excluded from the inventory unit. This parcel is not contiguous to the rest of the Black Mountain Unit and was included in intensive inventory only because it is contiguous to RARE II roadless area 3-111 allocated for non-wilderness. After boundary adjustment, the unit contains 5,800 acres of public land and 40 acres of private inholdings.

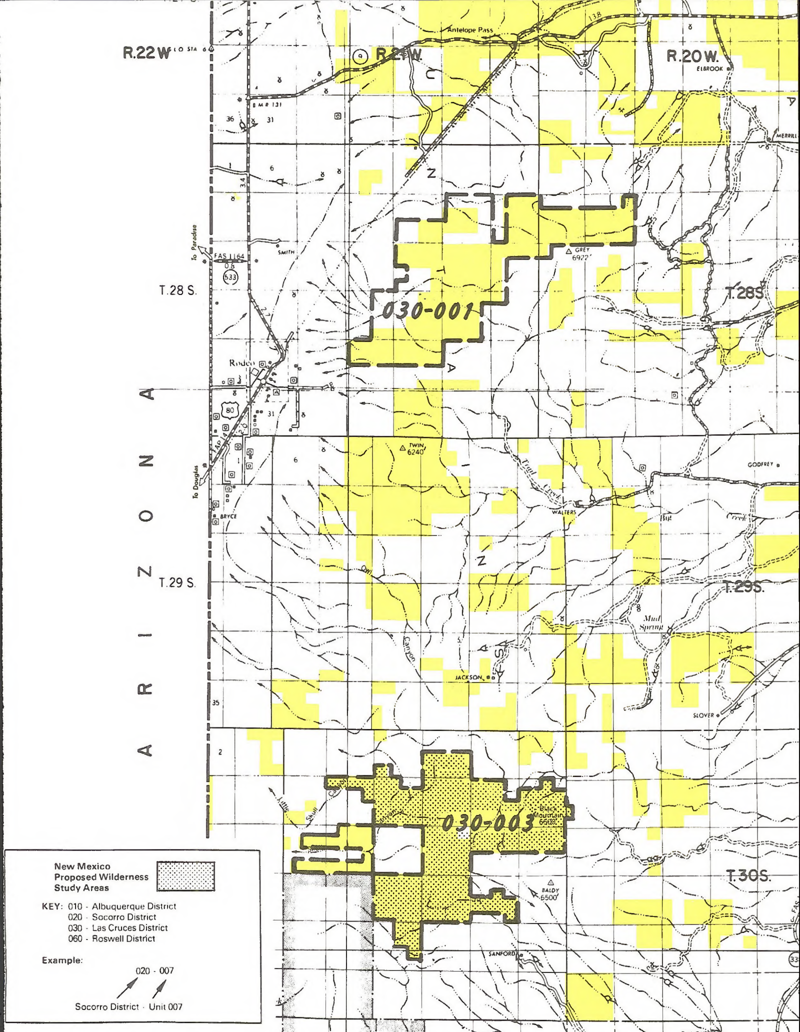
NATURALNESS: This unit appears natural. A jeep trail and dirt tank in the northern part of the unit are presently not maintained and being allowed to revert to a natural condition. One other stock tank and concrete dam are substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Mountainous terrain and diverse vegetation enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation found in the unit. Limited access into the unit also contributes to outstanding opportunities for solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains ecological features of scientific and educational interest. A portion of the northern part of the unit are included in the proposed Central Peloncillo Research Natural Area (RNA). The area has been managed as an RNA since December 6, 1977 pending formal designation in the Federal Register.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 5,800 acres of public lands.


R.22 W.
R.21 W.
R.20 W.
Antelope Pass
ELBROOK
MERRILL
T.28 S.
T.28S.
T.29 S.
T.29S.
T.30S.
030-001
030-003
GREY 6972'
TWIN 6240'
BALDY 6500'
Black Mountain 6610'
Rodeo
SMITH
BRYCE
WALTERS
GODFREY
JACKSON
SLOVER
SANFORD
CAILLOUETTE
Mud Spring
To Paradise
To Douglas
FAS 1164
A R I Z O N A
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Granite Gap (South) NM-030-006 25,860 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located in the Peloncillo Mountains 5 miles NW of Animas, New Mexico and directly south of Highway 80. The terrain is characterized by rugged, mountain peaks and ridges dissected by arroyos. The unit includes portions of the San Simon Valley to the west and the Animals Valley to the east. The predominant vegetation is desert shrub and shortgrasses.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due a revised estimate, this unit now contains 22,614 acres of public land. Boundary adjustments based on roads through Cowboy Pass and Martin Draw reduced the size the inventory unit to 20,044 acres of public land. There are 680 acres of State inholdings and 320 acres or private inholdings.

NATURALNESS: This unit lacks naturalness. Seven dirt tanks, 2 windmills, 2 pipelines, 13 jeep trails and numerous mining prospects are located in the unit. The dirt tanks and jeep trails are primarily located in major canyons and are substantially noticeable from within the canyons as well as from the peaks. These imprints cumulatively impact the naturalness of the unit.

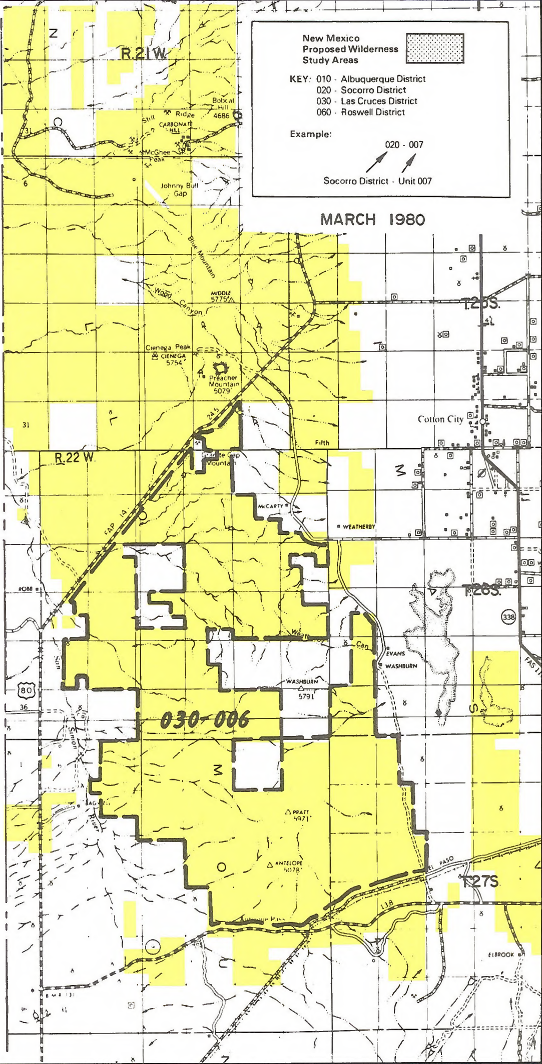
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit surrounds on three sides the highest and most rugged peaks in the area. This crescent-shaped configuration and lack of topographic integrity in combination with the lack of vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened or endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness consideration.

A R I Z O N A


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.21 W.
R.22 W.
T.25S.
T.26S.
T.27S.
030-006
Bobcat Hill 4686
Still Ridge
CARBONATE HILL
McGhee Peak
Johnny Bull Gap
Blue Mountain
Wood Canyon
MIDDLE 5775'
Cienega Peak
CIENEGA 5754'
Preacher Mountain 5079
Granite Gap Mountain
Cotton City
Fifth
McCARTY
WEATHERBY
ROBB
EVANS
WASHBURN
WASHBURN 5791'
PRATT 5971'
ANTELOPE 5078'
FAP 14
EL PASO
ELBROOK
338
80
138

Cowboy Spring NM-030-007 6,880 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located in the central part of the Animas Mtns., 25 air miles southeast of Animas, NM. This unit is characterized by rugged mountains topography and deeply cut canyons. A 6000 ft. ridge trends N-S through the central portion of the unit. Vegetation is primarily grasses, yucca, and cholla with scattered oak-juniper woodlands at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimates, this unit contains 6,920 acres of public land. There are no private or state inholdings.

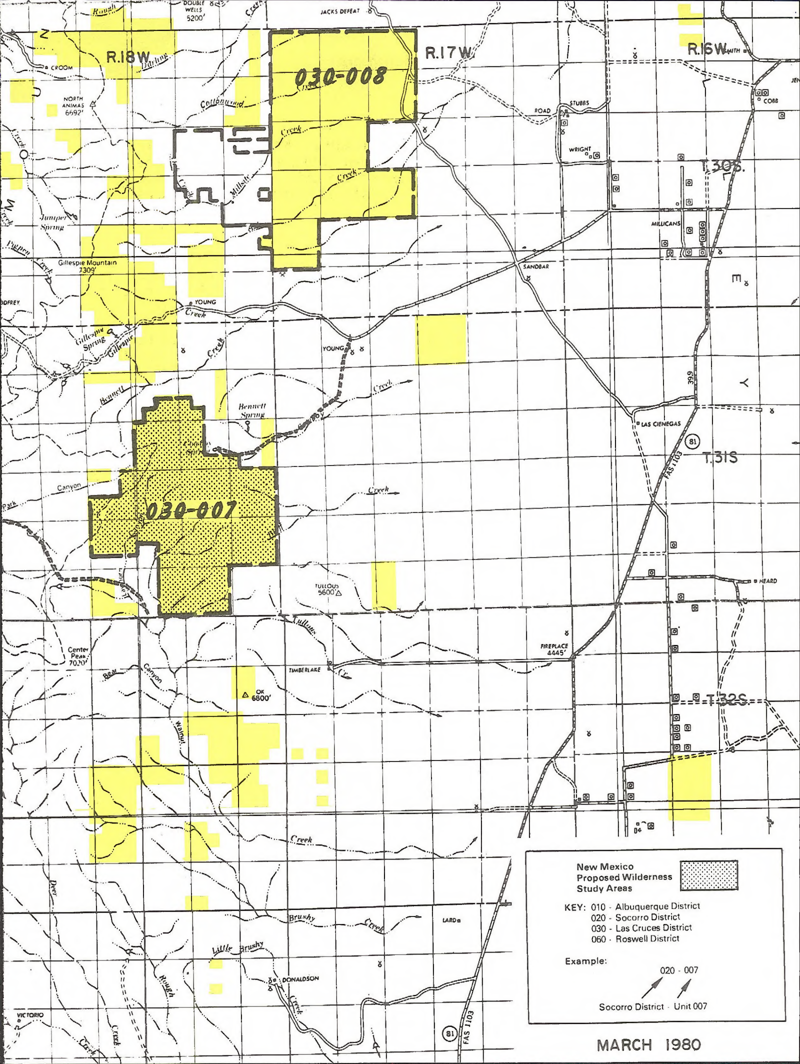
NATURALNESS: The unit generally appears natural. Approximately 2 miles of jeep trail enter the unit on the west and east but their cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is very remote and rugged. The topography provides ample screening for solitude. Most of the unit is accessible only by foot or horseback.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened and endangered animal species. The unit also has high scenic values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 6,920 acres of public lands.


030-008
030-007
R.18W
R.17W
R.16W
T.30S.
T.31S
T.32S
DOUBLE WELLS 5200'
JACKS DEFEAT
CROOM
NORTH ANIMAS 6692'
STUBBS
ROAD
WRIGHT
COBB
MILLICANS
SANDBAR
Juniper Spring
Gillespie Mountain 7309'
YOUNG
Gillespie Spring
Bennett Spring
LAS CIENEGAS
TULLOUS 5600'
FIREPLACE 4445'
TIMBERLAKE
HEARD
Center Peak 7020'
OK 6800'
LARD
DONALDSON
VICTORIO
FAS 1103
81
39.9
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Millsite Creek NM-030-008 9,720 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 22 air miles SE of Animas NM, along the eastern edge of the central Animas Mountains. A steep 5700 foot ridge forms the western boundary of the unit. The remainder of the unit covers gently sloping foothills and flats. Vegetation consists of mixed desert shrub, mesquite, and grasses.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit contains 9,440 acres of public land and 40 acres of state inholdings. Boundary adjustment to exclude a road in the NE corner of the unit deleted 280 acres from the original intensive inventory unit.

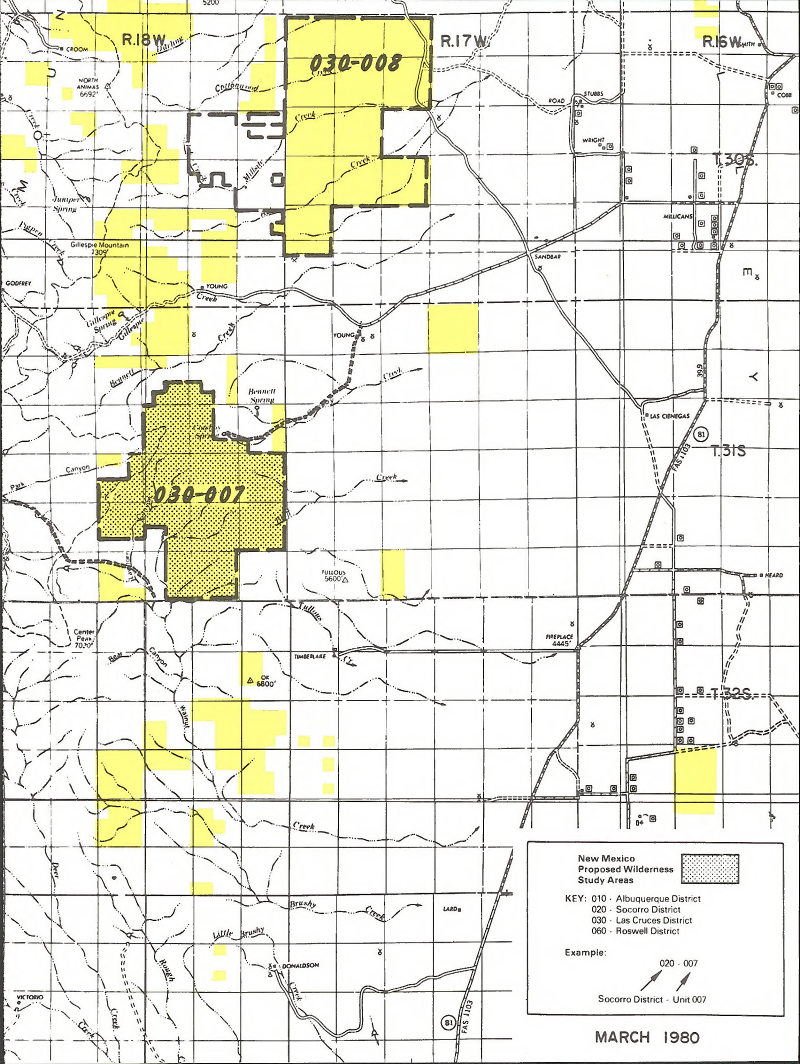
NATURALNESS: The unit generally appears natural. The abandoned Red Hill Mine is in the southern part of the unit and a jeep trail runs E-W along a fenceline through the center of the unit. However, the cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The lack of vegetative and topographic screening coupled with the nearness (less than 5 miles) of the Phelps-Dodge Hidalgo Copper Smelter diminish opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of man to less than outstanding. The operations of the smelter can be heard throughout most of the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened or endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness study.



R.18W.
R.17W.
R.16W.
T.30S.
T.31S.
T.32S.
030-008
030-007
CROOM
NORTH ANIMAS 6692'
Gillespie Mountain 7309'
GODFREY
YOUNG
Gillespie Spring
Bennett Spring
Juniper Spring
ROAD
STUBBS
WRIGHT
MILLICANS
SANDBAR
COBB
LAS CIENEGAS
FULLOUS 5600'
TIMBERLAKE
FIREPLACE 4445'
HEARD
OK 6800'
Center Peak 7020'
LARD
DONALDSON
VICTORIO
Cottonwood
Creek
Canyon
Park
Bennett
Bear
Walnut
Brushy
Little Brushy
Rough
Deer
FAS 1103
81
39.9
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Beacon Hill | NM-030-009 | 37,660 acres

Unit Description

Located 3 miles SE of Animas, NM, this unit includes the northern Animas Mountains and portions of the Animas and Playas Valleys. Vegetative cover consists of shortgrasses and desert shrub with scattered pinyon-juniper at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit contains 37,660 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings. Thirty miles of roads cut the Beacon Hill inventory unit into 9 roadless areas. Three of these areas are greater than 5,000 acres in size.

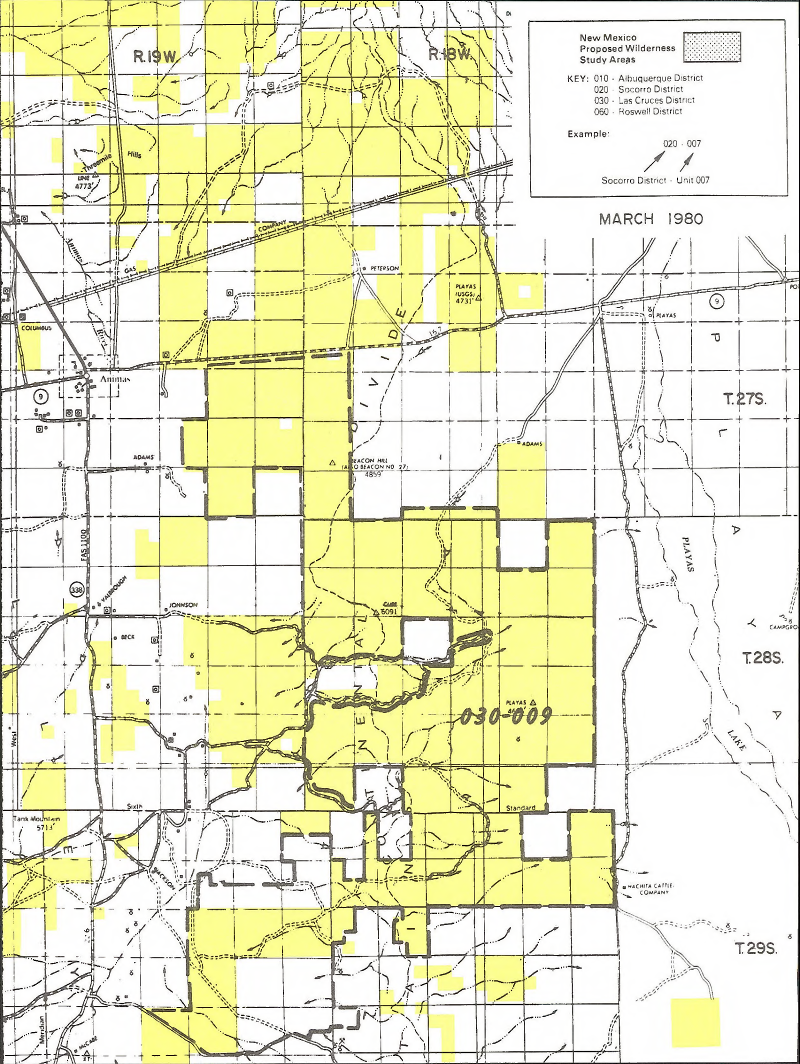
NATURALNESS: The unit lacks naturalness. The roadless area in the north central portion of the unit (12,700 acres) contains 4 miles of buried pipeline, 3 drinking tubs, 2 storage tanks, 3 dirt tanks, 2 windmills, a corral, and 3 miles of jeep trails. Surface disturbance associated with unpatented mining claims is substantially noticeable in the area. The two roadless areas in the southern portion of the unit are divided by the road through Whitmire Pass. Both areas have narrow, constricted configurations and both are no more than 2.5 miles wide at any point. The roadless area north of Whitmire Pass (6,400 acres) contains 2 dirt tanks, 2 detention dams, and 6 miles of jeep trails. Mining activity is noticeable in the NE portion of the area. The roadless area south of Whitmire Pass (9,600 acres) contains 4 dirt tanks, a windmill, and 4 miles of jeep trials. In summary, all three roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres within the Beacon Hill unit are cumulatively impacted by the works of man and lack of apparent naturalness.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The most interesting and rugged central portions of the unit are cut up into areas less than 5,000 acres. Due to configuration and limited topographic and vegetative screening, opportunities available in those areas greater than 5,000 acres are not considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened and endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.19W
R.18W
T.27S.
T.28S.
T.29S.
030-009
Animas
PLAYAS
PLAYAS LAKE
PETERSON
ADAMS
JOHNSON
BECK
COLUMBUS
HACHITA CATTLE COMPANY
Tank Mountain
5713'
Standard
Sixth
JACKSON
Threemile Hills
BEACON HILL
4859
FAS 1100
GAS
COMPANY

Pyramids NM-030-011 52,860

Unit Description

Directly south of Lordsburg, NM, this unit includes the middle part of the Pyramid Mtns. and gently sloping to flat terrain to the east. The Pyramids are bare, pyramidal shaped hills sparsely vegetated with grasses. Creosote, mesquite, grasses, and cacti are predominant in the flatter areas.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in intensive inventory divided this unit into 5 areas; 2 of these areas (North and South) are greater than 5,000 acres.

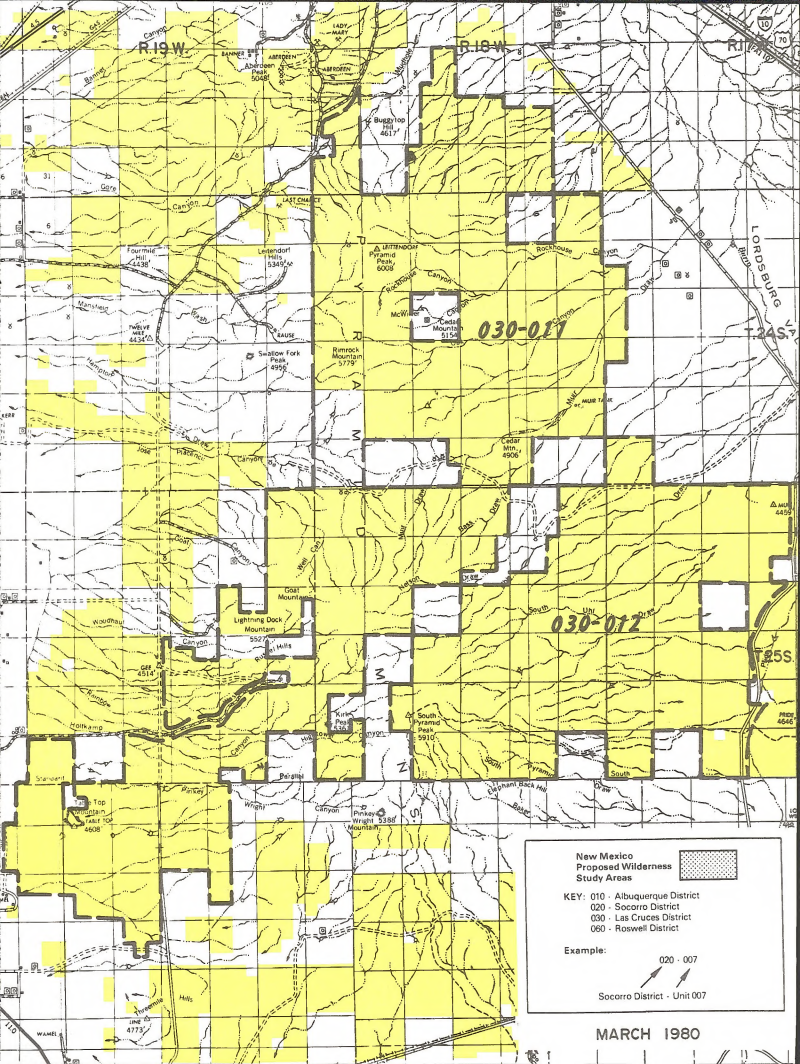
NATURALNESS: The naturalness of both areas has been cumulatively and negatively impacted by range improvements and mining activity. The northern area contains 7 dirt tanks, 3 windmills, 2 storage tanks, 12 miles of buried pipeline, 10 drinking tubs or troughs, a rock dam, a wooden barn and holding pens, and a corral. There are approximately 14 miles of jeep trail in the area and substantial evidence of mining activity. The southern area contains 3 dirt tanks and 5 windmills. At least 5 areas in the western part of the area (around Lightning Dock Mountain) exhibit substantial evidence of mining.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Although present, due to the limited vegetative screening and number and location of developments (especially mining activity) opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others or for dispersed recreation cannot be considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened and endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



R.19W.
R.18W.
030-011
030-012
T.24S.
T.25S.
LORDSBURG
Aberdeen Peak 5048'
Buggytop Hill 4617'
Fourmile Hill 4438'
Leitendorf Hills 5349'
LEITTENDORF Pyramid Peak 6008'
Swallow Fork Peak 4956'
Rimrock Mountain 5779'
Cedar Mtn. 4906'
Lightning Dock Mountain 5527'
Goat Mountain
Kirk Peak
South Pyramid Peak 5910'
Table Top Mountain
TABLE TOP 4608'
Pinkey Wright Mountain 5388'
Rockhouse Canyon
Gore Canyon
Mansfield
Hampton
Jose Placencia Canyon
Goat Canyon
Woodhaul Canyon
Rainbow
Holtkamp
Standard
Pinkey Wright Canyon
Elephant Back Hill
Threemile Hills
LINE 4773'
GEE 4514'
TWELVE MILE 4434'
PRIDE 4646
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

UHL Draw | NM-030-012 | 30,660 acres

Unit Description

Located 14 miles SSW of Lordsburg, NM, this unit contains the southeastern portion of the Pyramid Mtns. and gently sloping to level desert valley to the east. Vegetation consists of creosote, mesquite, grasses, and cacti.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified during intensive inventory reduced the size of the inventory unit from 30,660 acres to 9,520 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of state inholdings.

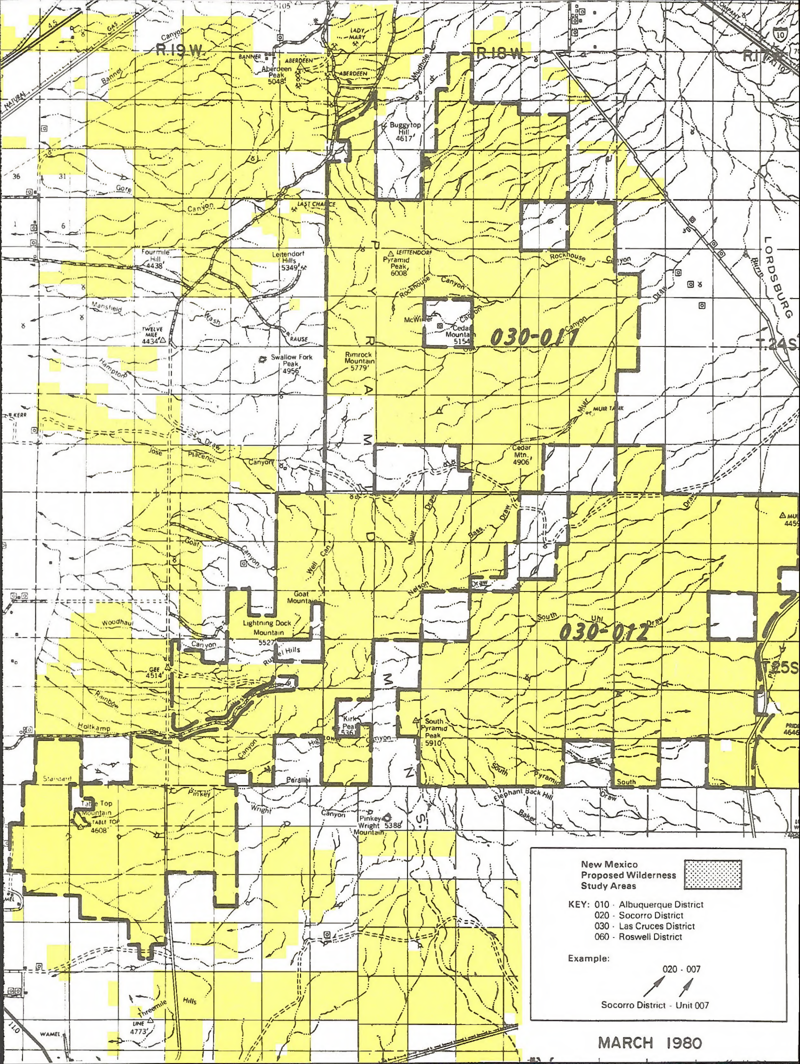
NATURALNESS: The unit does not generally appear natural. The unit contains 6 miles of jeep trail, 3 dirt tanks, 2 windmills, 6 miles of buried pipeline, and 7 drinking tubs. The cumulative impacts of these imprints are substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The size of the unit, in combination with the lack of adequate topographic or vegetative screening limit opportunities for solitude. The unit does not offer an outstanding diversity in types of recreation or an outstanding quality in any one opportunity.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit possibly provides habitat for threatened and endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
030-011
030-012
R.19 W.
R.18 W.
T.24 S.
T.25 S.
LORDSBURG
PYRAMID MNS.
Aberdeen Peak 5048'
Buggytop Hill 4617'
Fourmile Hill 4438'
Leitendorf Hills 5349'
Pyramid Peak 6008'
Cedar Mountain 5154
Rimrock Mountain 5779'
Swallow Fork Peak 4956'
Cedar Mtn. 4906'
Goat Mountain
Lightning Dock Mountain 5527
Russel Hills
Kirk Peak 5361
South Pyramid Peak 5910
Table Top Mountain 4608'
Pinkey Wright Mountain 5388
Rockhouse Canyon
Muir Draw
Bass Draw
Nelson Draw
South Uhl Draw
Elephant Back Hill
Threemile Hills

MARCH 1980

Gila Box NM-030-023 16,800 acres

Unit Description

Located approximately 23 miles northwest of Lordsburg, New Mexico, this unit includes the steep sided canyon of the "Lower Box" portion of the Gila River, with canyons and rolling hills in the remainder of the area. Yucca, creosote, cacti, and shortgrass characterize the vegetation in the majority of the unit. River willow and cottonwood are found along the river.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 20,120 and 80 acres of private inholdings. The southern boundary of the portion of the unit with wilderness characteristics has been placed along an E-W jeep trail 2 miles south of the river. This excludes 11,090 acres of the unit lacking naturalness.

NATURALNESS: The recommended WSA generally appears natural. It contains some imprints of man (dirt tank, developed spring, and 2.5 miles of jeep trails), but their cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

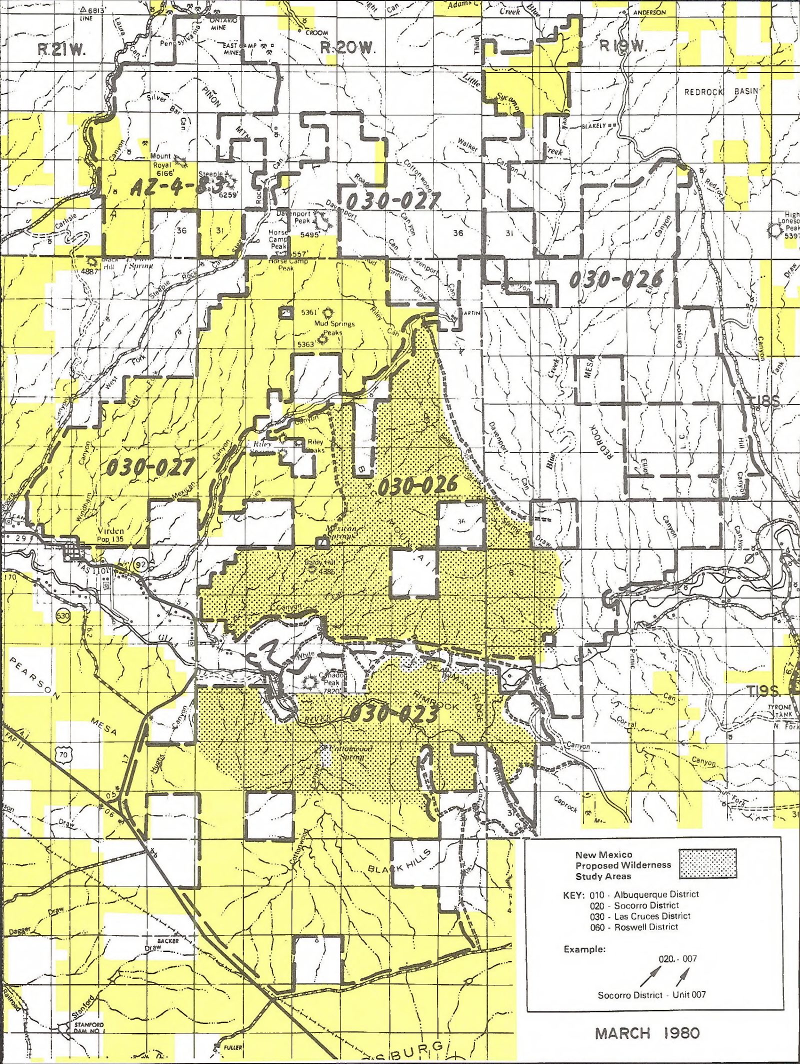
The portion of the unit excluded by the boundary adjustments contains 4 dirt tanks, 6 miles of jeep trail, a gravel pit, the Black Bob Mine, and powerline rights-of-way.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined recreation. The canyon is very remote and rugged. Both topography and vegetation provide ample screening for solitude. Recreational opportunities include rockhounding, sightseeing, fishing, hiking, floatboating, and photography.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Significant cultural and zoological (threatened and endangered species) supplemental values are present in the recommended WSA.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 9,030 acres of public land.



R.21W.
R.20W.
R19W.
T18S.
T19S.
AZ-4-83
030-027
030-026
030-023
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020. - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Red Rock | NM-030-025 | 14,460 acres

Unit Description

Directly SE of Redrock, NM, this unit is characterized by rolling desert hills and ridges of uniform elevation dissected by drainages towards the Gila River. Vegetation is sparse, consisting of shortgrasses, desert shrub, and cacti, with some cottonwoods in the drainages.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Boundary adjustments made on the basis of roads confirmed during intensive inventory reduced the size of the inventory unit. The northern portion of the unit containing the Gila Middle Box was divided from the unit by the road through House Canyon. This northern area was less than 5,000 acres in size and dropped from further inventory. After boundary revision, the unit contains 8,600 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.

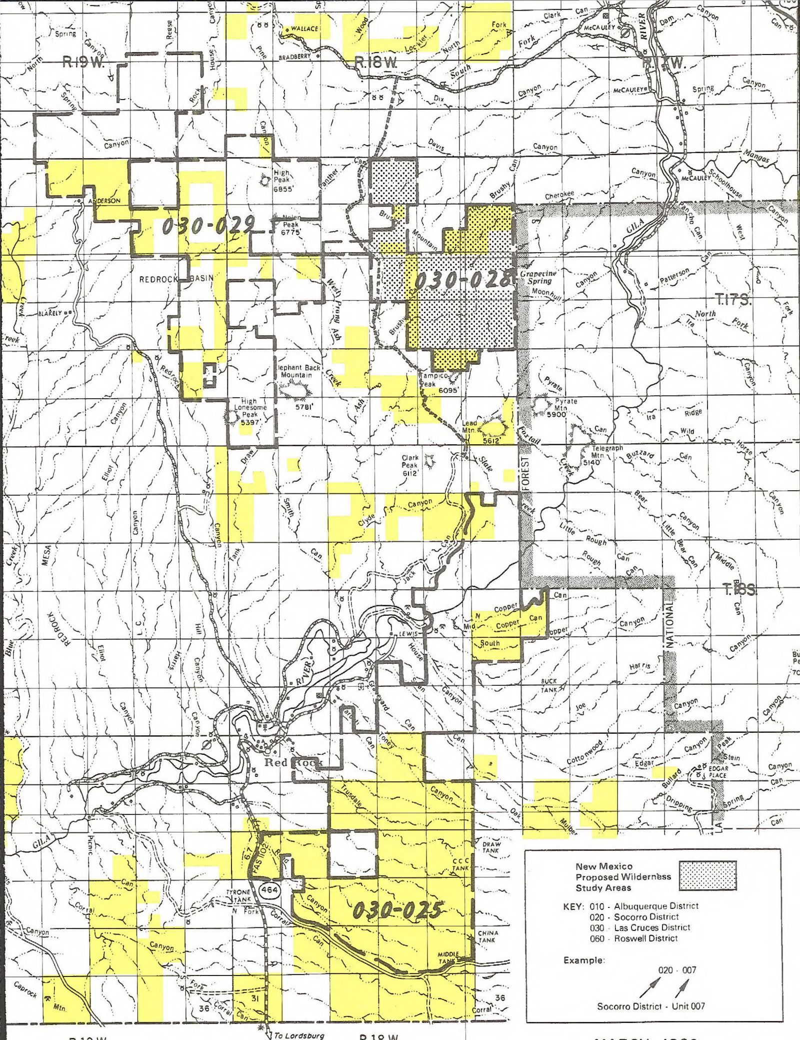
NATURALNESS: The unit lacks naturalness. Imprints of man within the unit include approximately 2 miles of buried pipeline, 3 drinking tubs, 2 corrals, and 5 large dirt tanks. The pipeline scars are visible where the N-S pipeline crosses the NW-SE trending ridges and arroyos. The dirt tanks are located in arroyos along the eastern edge of the unit and substantially noticeable from ridges in the central portion of the unit. Due to the cumulative impact of these developments, the unit lacks apparent naturalness.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Due to the sparse vegetation and modest topography of the area in combination with the size and configuration of the unit, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are not considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values within the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and should be dropped from further wilderness study.


030-029
030-028
030-025
R.19 W.
R.18 W.
T.17S.
T.18S.
REDROCK BASIN
Red Rock
High Peak 6855'
Nolen Peak 6775'
Elephant Back Mountain 5781'
High Lonesome Peak 5397'
Tampico Peak 6095'
Lead Mtn. 5612
Clark Peak 6112'
Pyrate Mtn 5900'
Telegraph Mtn 5140'
Grapevine Spring
GILA
RIVER
FOREST
NATIONAL
McCAULEY
ANDERSON
BLAKELY
WALLACE
BRADBERRY
LEWIS
EDGAR PLACE
TYRONE TANK
DRAW TANK
CCC TANK
CHINA TANK
MIDDLE TANK
BUCK TANK
464
FAS 1102
To Lordsburg
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Blue Creek | NM-030-026 | 46,580 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 2 miles NE of Redrock, NM, north of the Gila River. Rolling desert hills and drainages towards the Gila River characterize the unit. Black Mountain, in the SW part of the unit, is the major physiographic feature. Typical vegetation is desert shrub, cacti and shortgrasses with riparian types along the drainages and sparse pinyon-juniper at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventories is 33,473. The recommended WSA includes 13,584 acres of public land and 1,280 acres of State inholdings. Recommended boundary adjustments would exclude 19,889 acres of public land NE and SW of Black Mountain lacking naturalness.

NATURALNESS: The recommended WSA appears to be natural and the cumulative impacts of the imprings of man (3 miles of jeep trail, 2 dirt tanks and a corral) are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

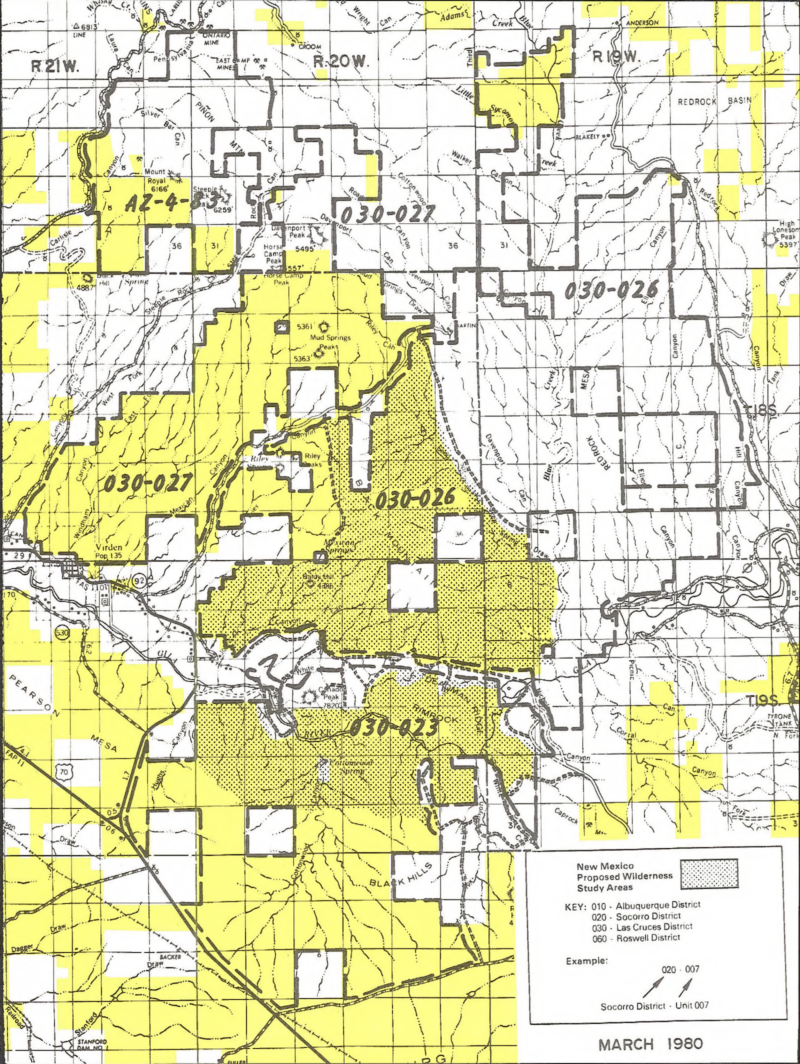
The recommended WSA boundary would exclude 6 miles of buried pipeline, 6 drinking tubs, 8 dirt tanks, 10 miles of jeep trails, 2 corrals, a windmill and a water storage tank. The boundary would also exclude 5 miles of Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative powerline running along the NE edge of the unit and 4 miles of powerline along the southern edge.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Black Mountain is located in the central portion of the recommended WSA. Surrounding canyons and drainages are also within the recommended boundary. The size and configuration of the unit in combination with its topographic variety and unity provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit provides contrasting scenic vistas of mountainous forested areas to the north and northeast and the Gila River and Lordsburg desert mesa to the south.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 13,584 acres of public land.


R 21 W.
R 20 W.
R 19 W.
AZ-4-83
030-027
030-026
030-027
030-026
030-023
T18S
T19S
Mount Royal 6166'
Steeple Rock Peak 6259'
Davenport Peak 5495'
Horse Camp Peak 5557'
Mud Springs Peaks
Riley Peaks
Virden Pop 135
Canador Peak 7820'
Bandy Hill 4386
High Lonesome Peak 5397'
ONTARIO MINE
EAST CAMP MINES
CROOM
ANDERSON
REDROCK BASIN
BLAKELY
PEARSON MESA
BLACK HILLS
DEADMAN RIDGE
RIMROCK
BLACK MOUNTAIN
REDROCK
TYRONE TANK
STANFORD DAM NO 1
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Mud Springs Peak NM-030-027 12,900 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located directly north and northeast of Virden, NM. The southern part of the unit is characterized by sparsely vegetated rolling hills and ridges cut by SW-NE trending, shallow arroyos. Moving north, the topography becomes more rugged and broken. Vegetation consists of desert shrub and shortgrass with scattered pinyon-juniper in the northernmost portions of the unit.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit is divided into two roadless areas (North and South) greater than 5,000 acres by a road running south from the NE corner of Sec. 6, T. 18 S., R. 20 W., to the SW corner of Sec. 20.

NATURALNESS: The southern area is natural. A windmill, corral, and tub are located in the center of the area. The development is substantially unnoticeable in the overall unit.

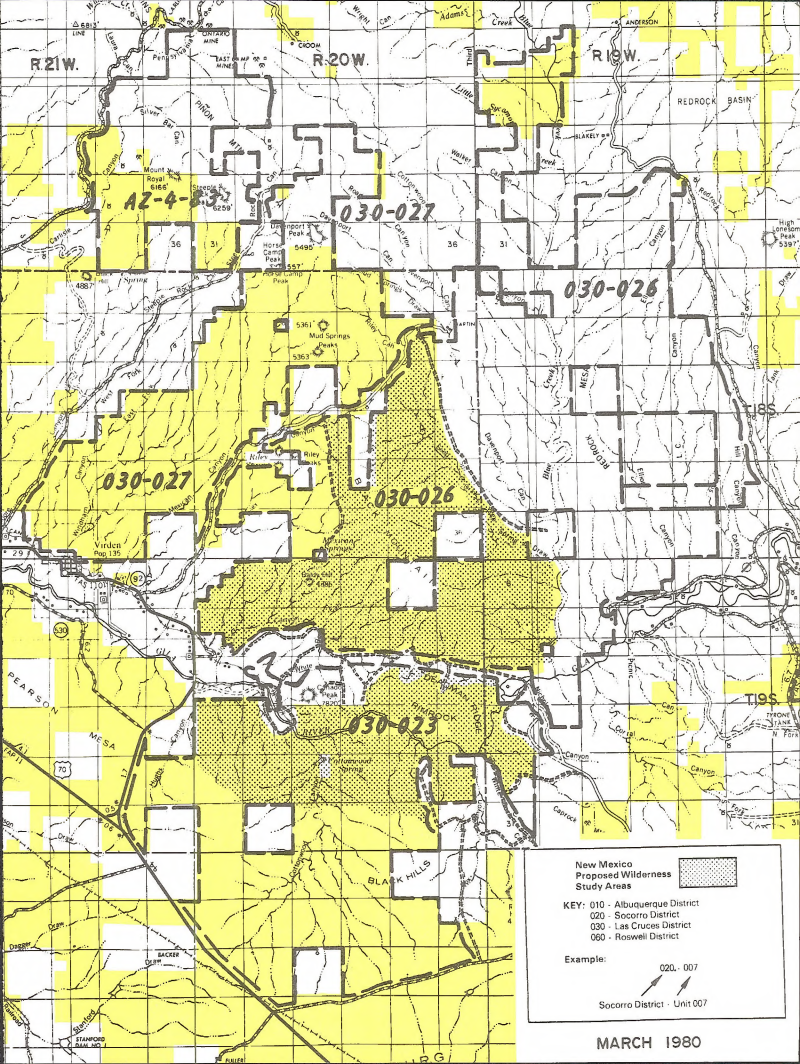
The northern area lacks apparent naturalness. The boundary surrounds one topographic feature (Mud Springs Peak) completely. All of the imprints of man (2 dirt tanks, a corral, and 4 miles of jeep trail) are located on the slopes of the mountain or are visisble from the slopes. Due to the combination of the area's configuration and location of imprints, apparent naturalness is lacking.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Both roadless areas lack the necessary topographic and vegetative screening for areas of small size to ensure outstanding opportunities for solitude. Neither area offers outstanding opportunities for dispersed recreation in terms of variety or quality of opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



R.21W.
R.20W.
R.19W.
T18S.
T19S.
AZ-4-83
030-027
030-026
030-023
Mount Royal 6166'
Steeple Rock Peak 6259'
Davenport Peak 5495'
Horse Camp Peak
Mud Springs Peaks
Riley Peaks
Virden Pop 135
Canador Peak 7820'
BLACK HILLS
PEARSON MESA
REDROCK BASIN
High Lonesome Peak 5397'
BLAKELY
CROOM
ANDERSON
ONTARIO MINE
EAST CAMP MINES
DEADMAN RIDGE
RIMROCK
GILA RIVER
BACK MOUNTAIN
TYRONE TANK
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District · Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Grapevine Spring NM-030-028 5,560 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 10 air miles NE of Redrock, NM, northwest of the Big Burro Mountains. The unit is characterized by steep mountainous topography and pinyon-juniper woodland.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: After boundary adjustments, this unit contains 5,200 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings. Boundary adjustments were made at the western edge of the unit to exclude a road along Ash Creek.

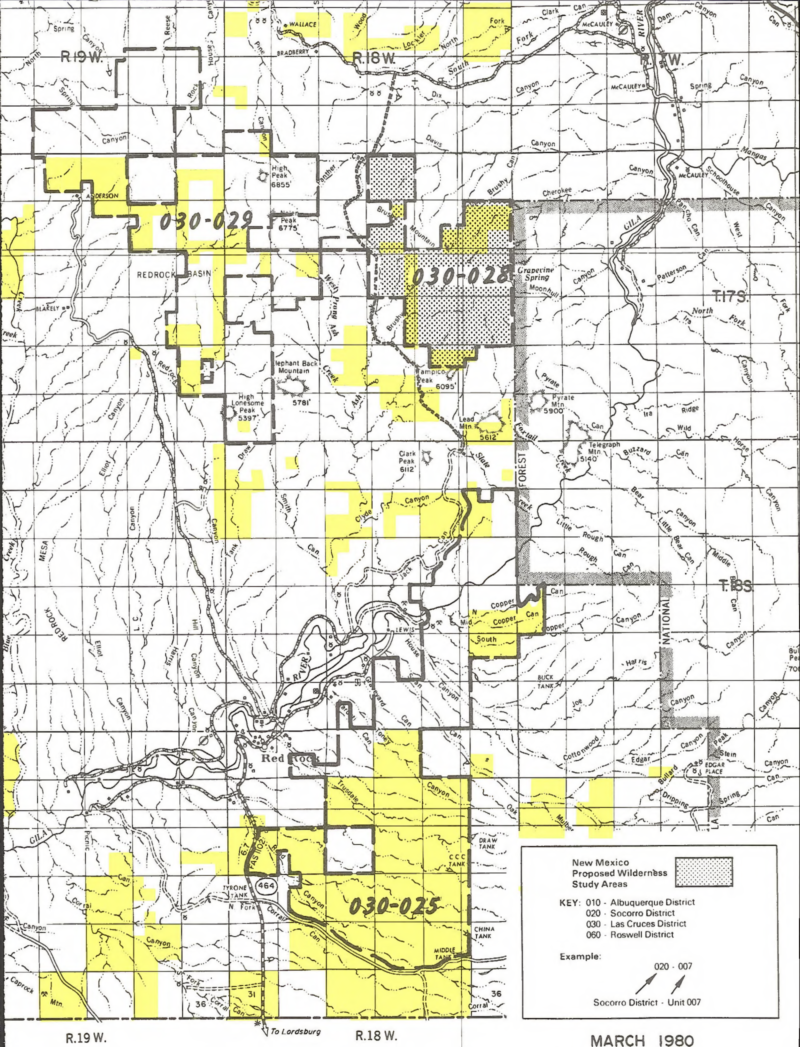
NATURALNESS: The unit generally appears natural. Five earth tanks, 1 mile of pipeline, and 2 drinking tubs are within the unit boundary. However, the rugged topography and moderate to dense vegetative cover provide effective screening for these imprints of man and their cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The terrain and vegetation easily allow one to escape the sights and sounds of other visitors. Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation include hiking, backpacking, photography, and hunting.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit has scenic supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 5,200 acres of public land.



030-029
030-028
030-025
R.19W.
R.18W.
T.17S.
T.18S.
High Peak 6855'
Nolen Peak 6775'
Elephant Back Mountain 5781'
High Lonesome Peak 5397'
Tampico Peak 6095'
Clark Peak 6112'
Lead Mtn. 5612'
Pyrate Mtn 5900'
Telegraph Mtn 5140'
REDROCK BASIN
ANDERSON
BLAKELY
WALLACE
BRADBERRY
McCAULEY
EDGAR PLACE
Red Rock
GILA RIVER
Grapevine Spring
DRAW TANK
CCC TANK
TYRONE TANK
CHINA TANK
MIDDLE TANK
BUCK TANK
NATIONAL FOREST
464
FAS 1102
To Lordsburg
R.19 W.
R.18 W.
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

High Lonesome NM-030-029 12,640 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 10 air miles north of Redrock, NM. The terrain is mountainous and dissected by numerous canyons. Vegetation consists primarily of short grasses with scattered pinyon-juniper.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit contains 12,640 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.

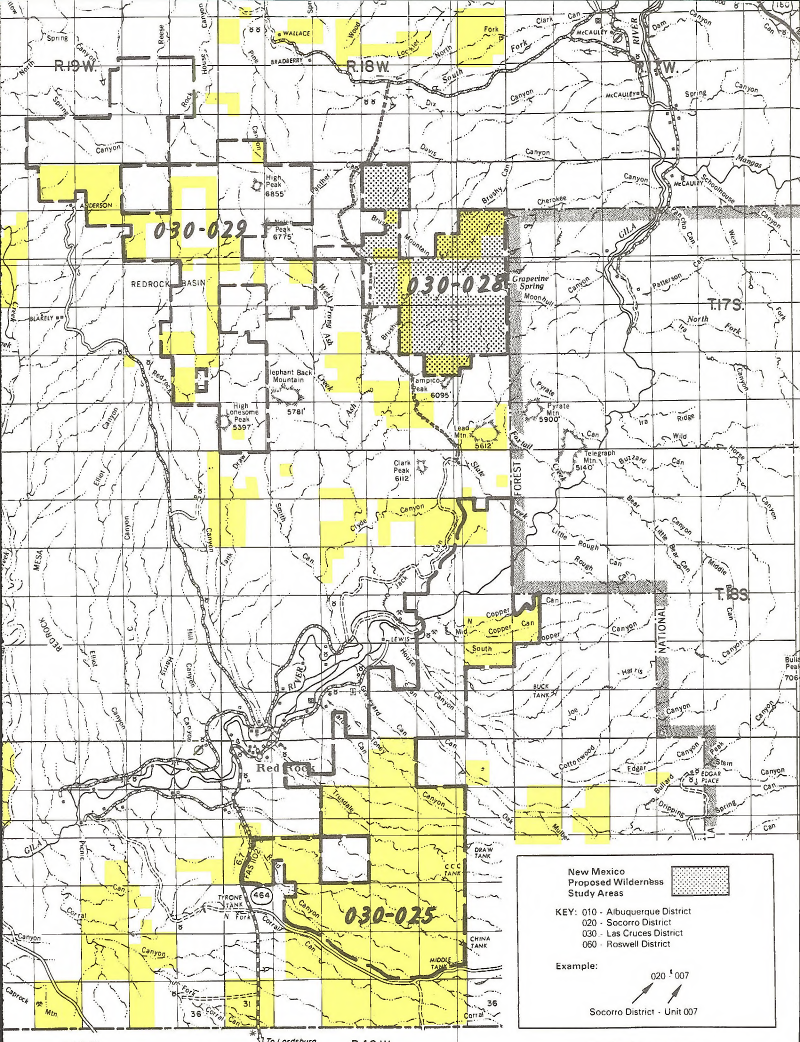
NATURALNESS: The unit lacks apparent naturalness. A dirt tank is located in nearly every canyon in the unit. A total of 21 dirt tanks and approximately 15 miles of jeep trail are within the unit boundary. These imprints of man cumulatively and substantially impact the naturalness of the unit.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The number and location of developments, combined with the size and configuration of the unit and sparse vegetative screening limit opportunities to avoid the sights and evidence of man. These characteristics also reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation to less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values within the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



R.19 W.
R.18 W.
R.17 W.
T.17S.
T.18S.
030-029
030-028
030-025
WALLACE
BRADBERRY
McCAULEY
ANDERSON
BLAKELY
LEWIS
REDROCK BASIN
Red Rock
High Peak 6855'
Nolan Peak 6775'
Elephant Back Mountain 5781'
High Lonesome Peak 5397'
Tampico Peak 6095'
Lead Mtn. 5612'
Clark Peak 6112'
Pyrate Mtn 5900'
Telegraph Mtn 5140'
Grapevine Spring
GILA
RIVER
FOREST
NATIONAL
EDGAR PLACE
TYRONE TANK
DRAW TANK
CCC TANK
CHINA TANK
MIDDLE TANK
BUCK TANK
Caprock Mtn.
FAS 1102
464
To Lordsburg
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
R.19 W.
R.18 W.

MARCH 1980

Cooke Range NM-030-031 28,000 acres

Unit Description

This unit, located 20 miles north of Deming, NM, includes most of the rugged Cooke Range and surrounding foothills and drainages. Elevation varies from 4,800' in Starvation Draw to 8,408' at Cookes Peak. Vegetation consists of mixed mountian shrub, desert shrub, and grasses with pinyon-juniper occuring in canyons and on east and north-facing slopes.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Boundary adjustments to exclude roads were made in the north and NE portions of the unit. The recommended WSA contains 19,870 acres of public land and 640 acres of state inholdings.

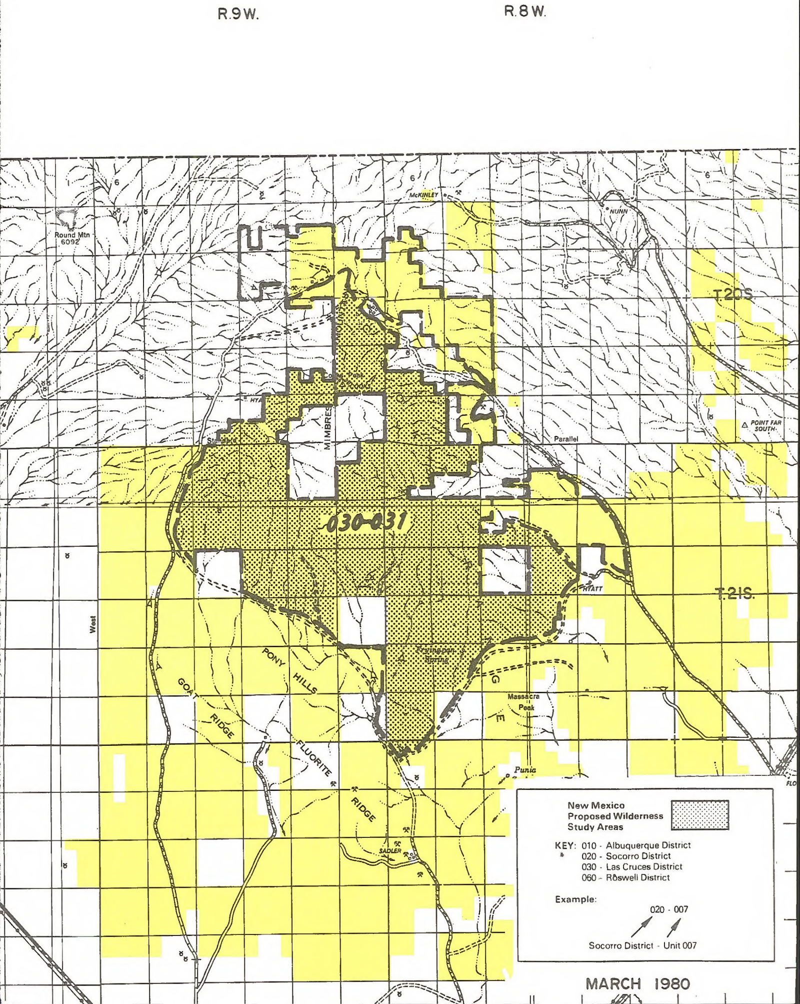
NATURALNESS: The unit generally appears natural. A telephone line, earthen dams, mining scars, 3 windmills, 8 springs, and 4 jeep trails are within the unit boundary. However, these imprints are topographically and vegetatively screened and their cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. A recommended WSA boundary adjustment in the southern part of the unit would exclude a detention dam that substantially impacts naturalness locally.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Both topography and vegetation provide ample screening for solitude. Recreational opportunities include backpacking, hiking, hunting, mountain and rock climbing, horseback riding, rock-hounding, and sightseeing.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Cooke Range unit contains features of scenic, cultural, and historical value.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 19,870 acres of public land and 640 acres of state inholdings.


R.9W.
R.8W.
Round Mtn
6092
McKINLEY
NUNN
T.20S.
POINT FAR
SOUTH
MIMBRES
Cooks Peak
COOKS
Parallel
030-031
HYATT
T.21S.
West
PONY
HILLS
GOAT
RIDGE
FLUORITE
RIDGE
Fryingpan
Spring
Massacre
Peak
Punia
SADLER
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Florida Mountains NM-030-034 75,310 acres

Unit Description

This unit, located 12 miles SE of Deming, NM, contains the Florida Mountains, a rugged N-S trending range with a total relief of about 2,800 ft. Large rock outcrops, high vertical cliffs, and many steep and narrow draws typify the topography. The unit includes surrounding foothills and creosote flats. Vegetation consists of pinyon-juniper grassland, mixed mountain shrub, desert shrub, and shortgrass.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory divided the unit into 17 roadless areas, 4 of which are greater than 5,000 acres. Only one of these 4 areas has wilderness characteristics. The recommended WSA contains 18,904 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.

NATURALNESS: All 4 areas greater than 5,000 acres generally appear natural. There are 4 jeep trails (access to mining claims) and evidences of mining activity within the recommended WSA. These imprints do not cumulatively impact the overall naturalness of the recommended WSA. The 3 roadless areas in the eastern and southern parts of the unit contain earthen dams and jeep trails.

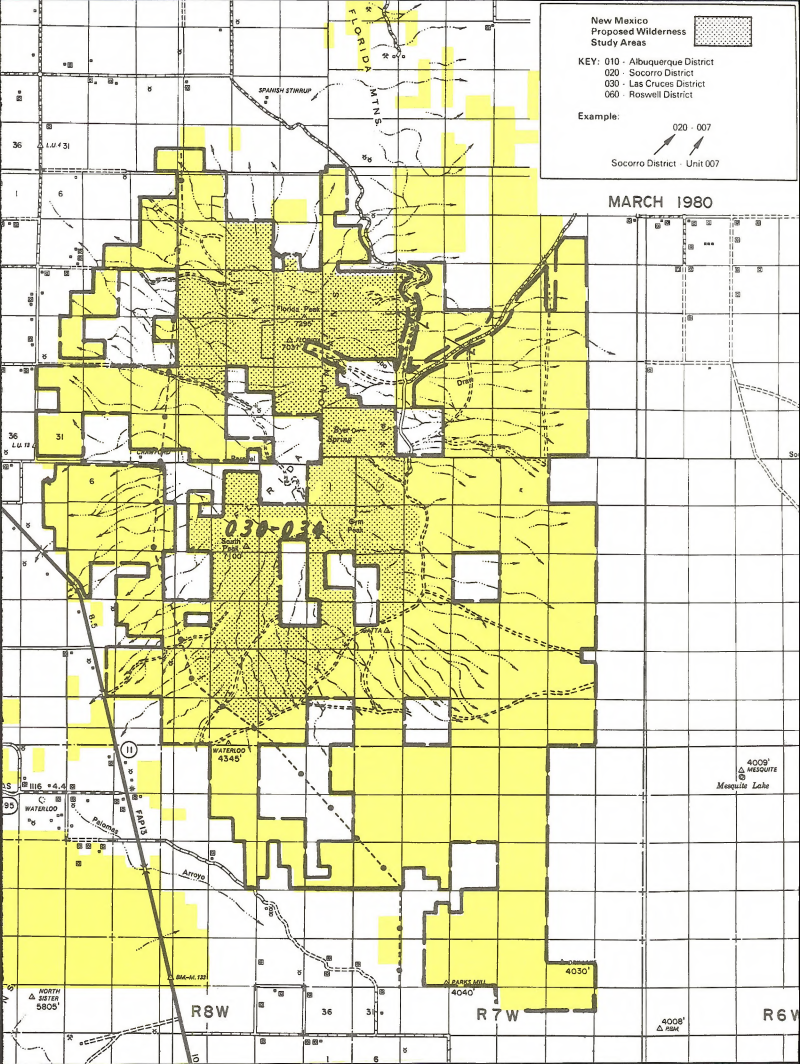
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The recommended WSA includes the central, mountainous portion of the unit. The size and vegetative and topographic screening provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, mountain climbing, and nature study are present.

The 3 roadless areas to the east and south lack outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The areas are located in the foothills and creosote flats. The almost total lack of relief and low growth form of the vegetation in combination with size limit these opportunities.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The recommended WSA contains scenic and biological supplemental values.

Recommendation

A portion of this unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 18,904 acres of public land.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
FLORIDA MTNS.
SPANISH STIRRUP
Florida Peak
7295
7037
Draw
Bye-on Spring
CRAWFORD
030-034
South Peak
7100
Gym Peak
WATERLOO
4345'
4009'
MESQUITE
Mesquite Lake
WATERLOO
Palomas
Arroyo
FAP13
BM.-M.133
NORTH SISTER
5805'
PARKS MILL
4040'
4030'
4008'
R8W
R7W
R6W

Big Hatchet Mountains NM-030-035 120,170 acres

Unit Description

Located 20 miles south of Hachita, NM, this unit includes the Big Hatchet Mountains, and surrounding foothills and drainages. Rugged terrain coupled with broad canyons typify the unit. Elevation varies from 4400' to 8366'. Pinyon-juniper and mountain shrub occur at higher elevations while desert shrub, mesquite, and associated grassland communities occur in the lower canyons.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Of the 120,170 acres intensively inventoried, some 65,950 acres of public land are within the recommended WSA. The recommended WSA contains 2,080 acres of state and 90 acres of private inholdings.

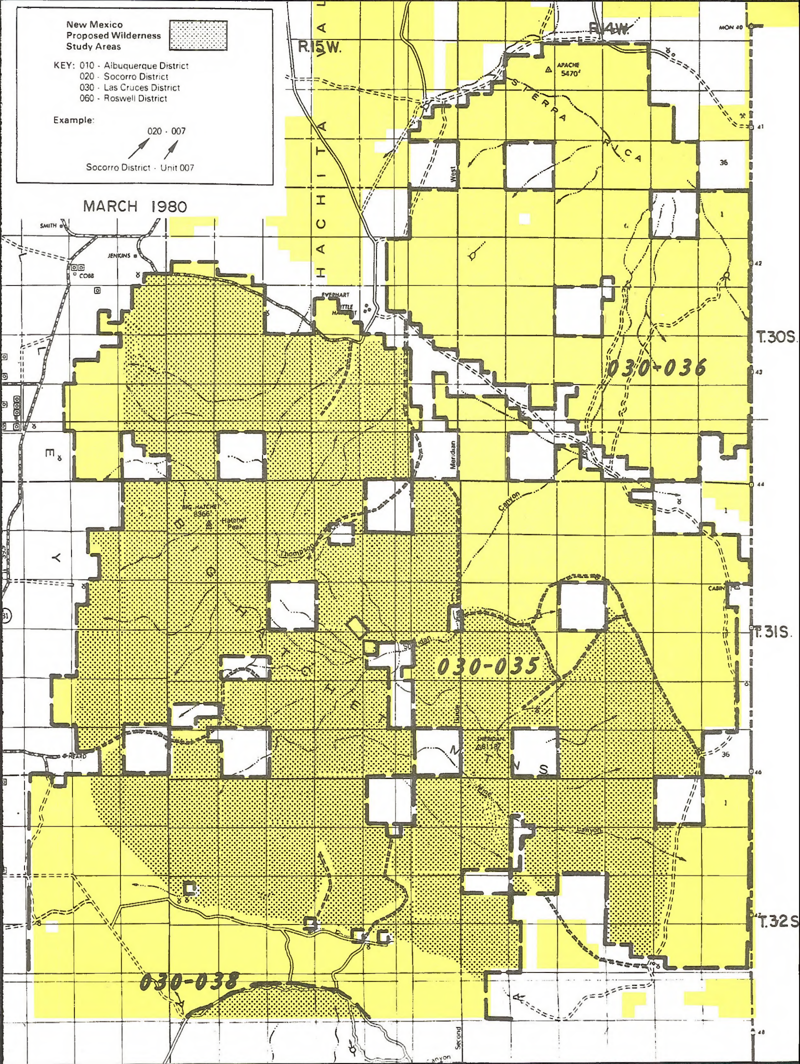
NATURALNESS: The central portion of the unit recommended for further study generally appears natural. The number, size, and distribution of imprints (trails, fences, dirt tanks, old mines, retention dams, wildlife waters) are not substantially noticeable in the overall unit. Boundary adjustments exclude NE and SW portions of the unit containing roads, jeep trails, and grazing improvements.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Due to a combination of large size, and topographic and vegetative screening, this unit provides ample opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The rugged natural terrain, scenic and wildlife values provide excellent opportunities for dispersed recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The Big Hatchets has the only healthy, wild, remnant, indigenous herd of desert bighorn sheep in the state. The unit also provides habitat for threatened and endangered flora and fauna and has high scenic qualities.

Recommendation

A portion of this unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 65,950 acres of public land.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.15W.
R.14W.
HATCHITA VAL
SIERRA RICA
APACHE 5470'
T.30S.
T.31S.
T.32S.
030-036
030-035
030-038
BIG HATCHET 8366'
Hatchet Peak
Thompson
Canyon
Sheridan
SHERIDAN 8158'
Meridian
West
Second
SMITH
JENKINS
COBB
EVERHART
HEARD
CABIN
MON 40
BIG HATCHET MTNS

Sierra Ricas NM-030-036 28,760 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 10 miles SSE of Hatchita, NM, and includes the Sierra Ricas and a mesquite-creosote covered basin to the south. The Sierra Ricas are a low mountain-rolling hills complex vegetated with desert shrub, cacti, and short grass. Elevation within the unit varies from 5,500' to 4,300'.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads verified in intensive inventory reduced the size of the unit to about 19,000 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of state inholdings.

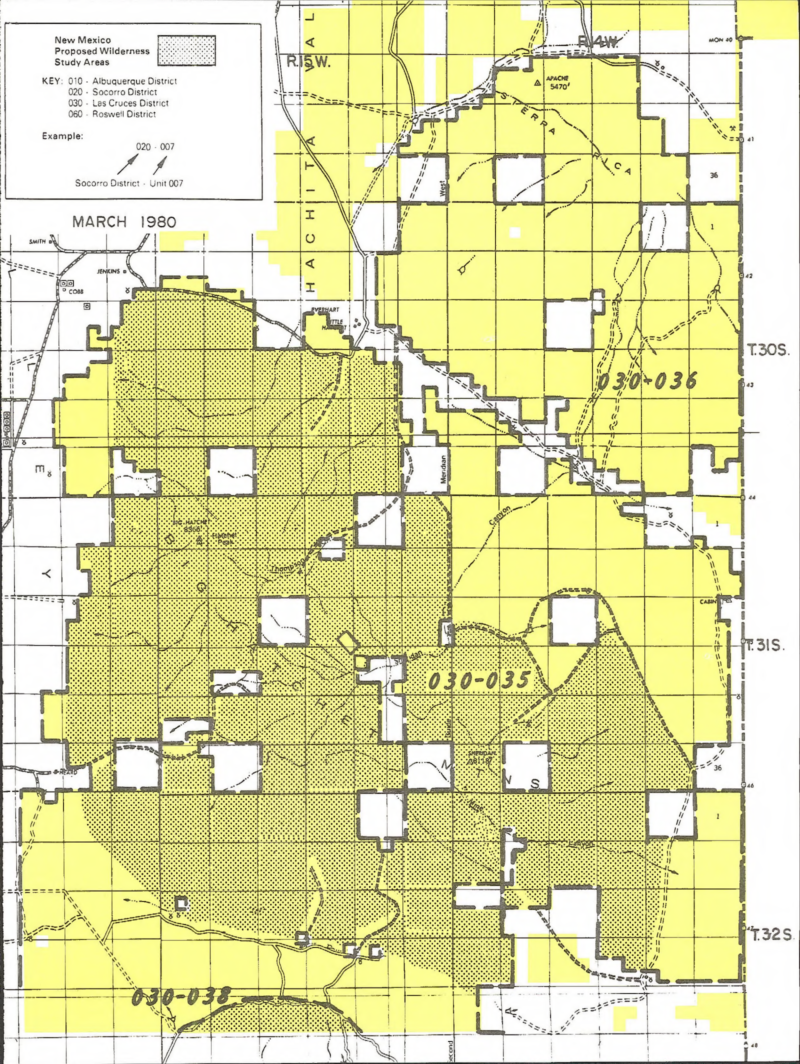
NATURALNESS: The unit does not generally appear natural. Evidences of mineral exploration, 3 dirt tanks, 2 drill pads, and 6 jeep trails impact the naturalness of the unit. Although certain parts of the unit appear natural, when assessing the unit as a whole, it does not appear to have been affected primarily by nature's forces.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit does not contain outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The lack of adequate topograhpic and vegetative screening combined with size result in less than outstanding opportunities for solitude. Recreational opportunities cannot be considered outstanding in terms of variety or the outstanding quality of any one opportunity.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.15W.
R.14W.
HACHITA VAL
SIERRA RICA
APACHE 5470'
T.30S.
T.31S.
T.32S.
030-036
030-035
030-038
BIG HATCHET MOUNTAINS
Hatchet Peak
Thompson
Canyon
Meridian
West
SMITH
JENKINS
COBB
EVERHART
HEARD
CABIN
SHERIDAN 6118'

Alamo Hueco Mountains NM-030-038 12,540 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 35 miles south of Hachita, NM, in the SW corner of the State and includes a major portion of the Alamo Hueco Mtns. and surrounding foothills and drainages. The topography is characterized by outcrops of bedrock that form vertical cliffs. Elevation varies from 4,700' to 6,417' at Pierce Peak. Vegetative cover is predominantly grasses with scattered mountain shrub and juniper trees.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Identification of roads in intensive inventory expanded the northern boundary of the unit and deleted certain southern and eastern portions of the unit. Boundary adjustments increased the size of the unit to 20,840 acres of public land. There are 640 acres of state and 240 acres of private inholdings.

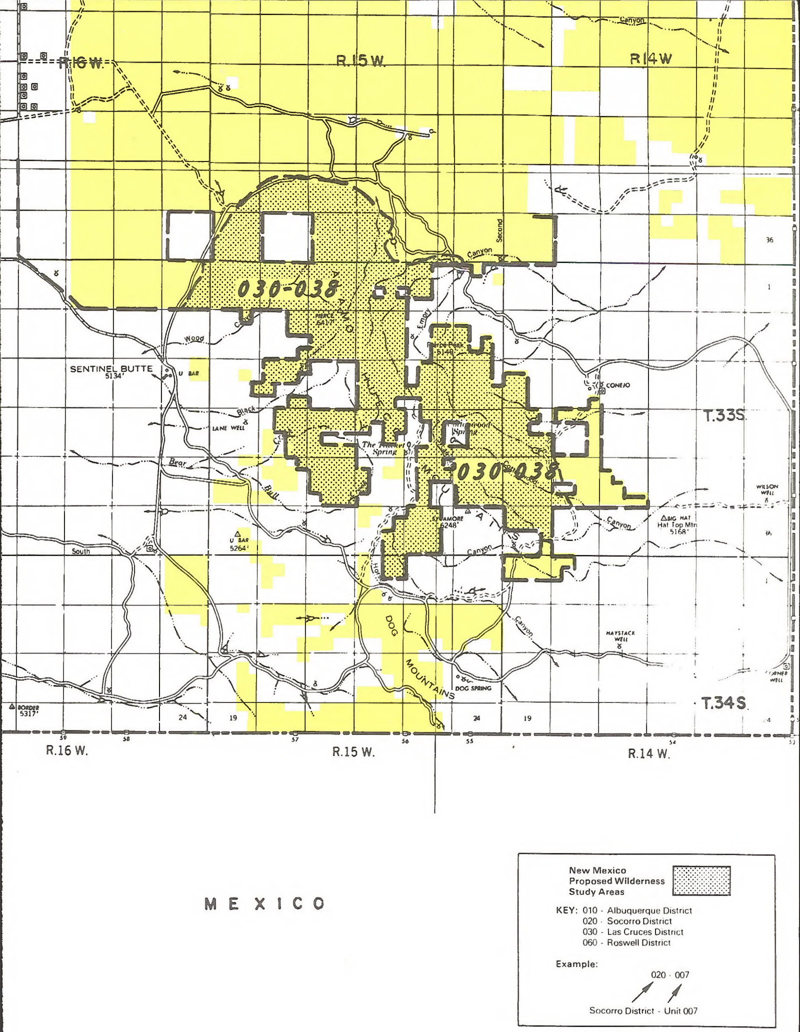
NATURALNESS: This unit appears natural. Imprints of man are limited (2 dirt tanks, 2 short access routes, windmill, tub, and earthen dike) and substantially unnoticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The Alamo Huecos are very rugged, remote, and scenic. These qualities support opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others and also provide opportunities for dispersed recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains significant cultural resources (rock art in picture cave), threatened and endangered plant species, and a variety of wildlife.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 20,840 acres of public land.


R.16 W.
R.15 W.
R.14 W.
Canyon
Second
030-038
PIERCE 6417'
Wood
SENTINEL BUTTE 5134'
U BAR
Pierce Peak 5148
CONEJO
T.33S.
LANE WELL
Black
The Thicket Spring
Bear
Bull
WILSON WELL
BIG HAT Hat Top Mtn 5168'
SYCAMORE 5248'
U BAR 5264'
South
HAYSTACK WELL
DOG MOUNTAINS
DOG SPRING
BORDER 5317'
T.34S.
MEXICO
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Cedar Mountains NM-030-042 205,216 acres

Unit Description

This unit, located approximately 20 miles SW of Deming, NM, is made up of the Cedar Mtns. and surrounding rolling hills and flats. Vegetation types include desert shrub, cacti, shortgrasses, and very sparse juniper at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Numerous roads identified in intensive inventory disect the unit, cutting it into less than 5,000 acre parcels.

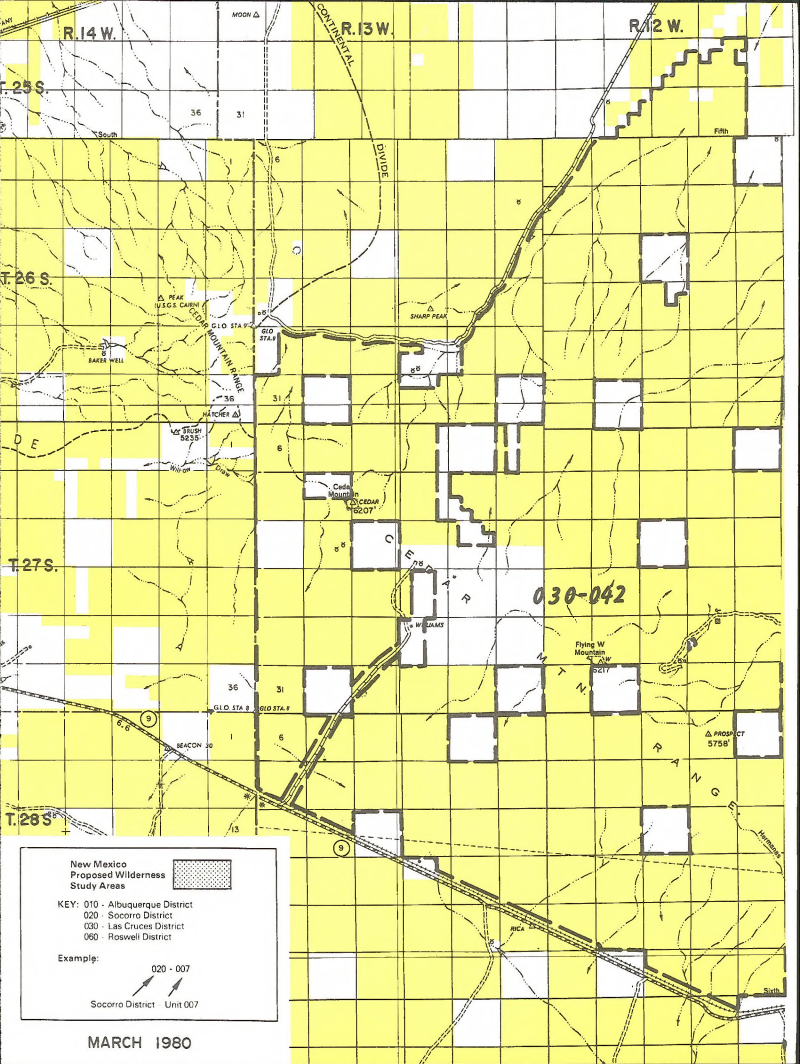
NATURALNESS: The unit does not appear natural. Numerous imprints of man impact the unit. Seventeen windmills, fences, dirt tanks, erosion control dams, miles of buried pipeline, drinking tubs, jeep trails, and evidences of mining activity cumulatively and negatively impact the naturalness of the unit.

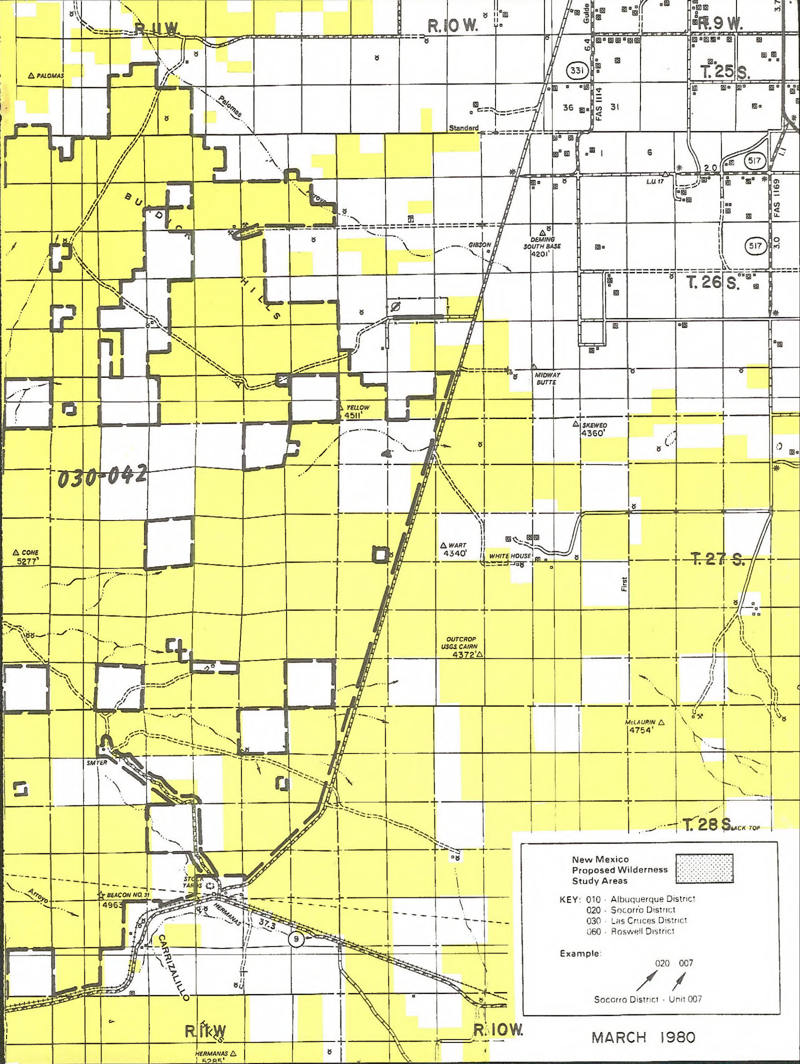
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation due to the number and location of imprints and lack of adequate topographic and vegetative screening.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R. 14 W.
R. 13 W.
R. 12 W.
T. 25 S.
T. 26 S.
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
MOON
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
South
Fifth
PEAK (U.S.G.S. CAIRN)
CEDAR MOUNTAIN RANGE
GLO STA 9
BAKER WELL
SHARP PEAK
HATCHER
BRUSH 5235
Willow Draw
Cedar Mountain
CEDAR 6207'
CEDAR MTN. RANGE
030-042
WILLIAMS
Flying W Mountain
PROSPECT 5758'
GLO STA 8
BEACON 30
RICA
Hermanas
Sixth
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District Unit 007
MARCH 1980


R. 11 W.
R. 10 W.
R. 9 W.
T. 25 S.
T. 26 S.
T. 27 S.
T. 28 S.
PALOMAS
Palomas
Standard
BURDICK HILLS
Arroyo
GIBSON
DEMING SOUTH BASE 4201'
MIDWAY BUTTE
YELLOW 4511'
SKEWED 4360'
030-042
CONE 5277'
WART 4340'
WHITE HOUSE
First
OUTCROP USGS CAIRN 4372'
McLAURIN 4754'
BLACK TOP
SMYER
STOCK YARDS
BEACON NO. 31 4963'
HERMANAS
CARRIZALILLO
37.3
9
HERMANAS 5285'
Guide
331
FAS 1114
FAS 1169
517
L.U. 17
6.4
2.0
3.0
1.1
36
31
1
6
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

East Potrillos NM-030-051 26,300 acres

Unit Description

This unit consists of the East Potrillo Mountains and portions of the surrounding alluvial plain. The East Potrillos are sparsely vegetated, rugged, and steep. The mountains rise more than 1000 ft. above mesquite dunes and creosote flats to the west and southwest.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit contains 26,300 acres of public land and 2,560 acres of state inholdings.

NATURALNESS: This unit lacks naturalness. The eastern slopes of the mountains are severely impacted by 2 mines, a drill pad, and 2 jeep trails. Several mines, mineral test pits, and access trails are located on the western slopes. Four dirt tanks, a tub and pipeline, and 4 miles of jeep trail are located in the gently rolling dunes west and SW of the mountains. The cumulative impacts of these imprints of man are substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

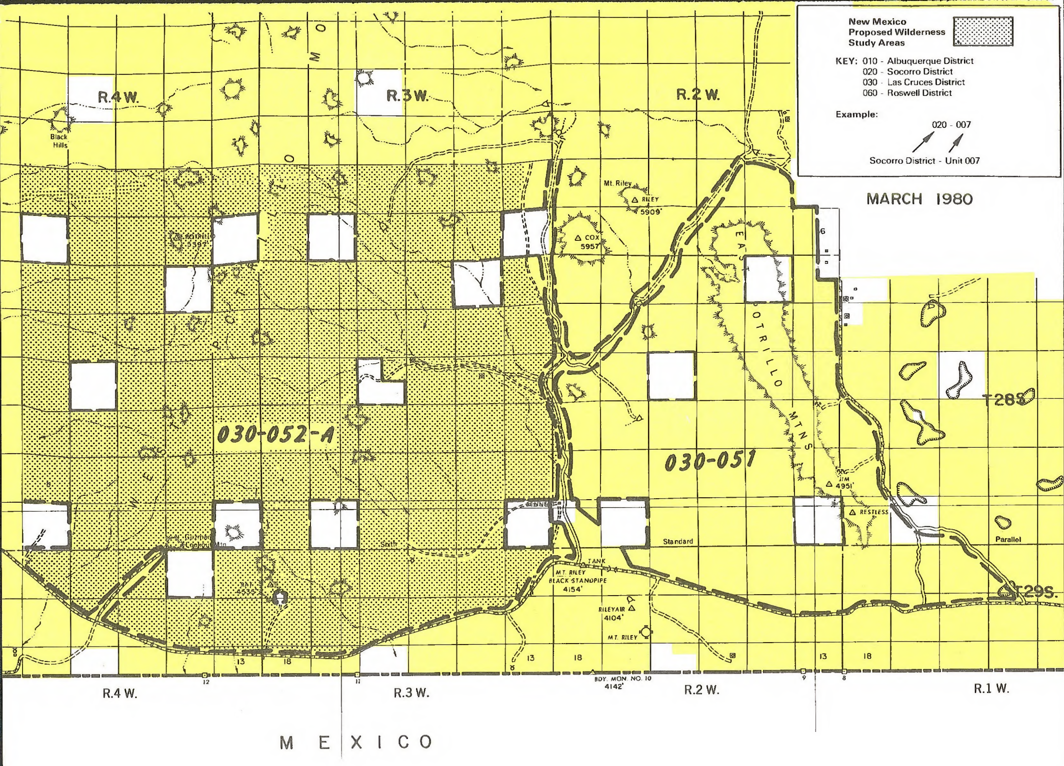
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The East Potrillos is a long, narrow mountain range running through the eastern third of the unit. The range offers outstanding backcountry recreational experiences such as hiking, backpacking, and hunting.

The unit offers only limited opportunities for avoiding the evidence of other people in the unit. The majority of the unit consists of gently sloping mesquite dunes and flats which are highly visible from the mountain range. The topographic screening in relation to the unit's size does not provide outstanding opportunities for solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are evidences of pre-Columbian American-Indian inhabitation in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example: 020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.4W.
R.3W.
R.2W.
R.1 W.
T28S.
T29S.
030-052-A
030-051
Black Hills
Mt. Riley
RILEY 5909'
COX 5957'
EAST POTRILLO MTNS
JIM 4951'
RESTLESS
Standard
Parallel
TANK
MT. RILEY BLACK STANDPIPE 4154'
RILEYAIR 4104'
MT. RILEY
BDY. MON. NO. 10 4142'
M E X I C O

West Potrillo Mountains NM-030-052 280,200 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 40 miles SW of Las Cruces, and contains the West Potrillo Mtns., Mt. Riley, and portions of the surrounding alluvial-filled desert basin. The West Potrillos are a N-S trending series of low volcanic cinder cones. The topography is undulating and discontinuous. Maximum relief is about 1,000' above the desert basin. Vegetation is sparse and ranges from creosote-mesquite to desert shrub-grass types as elevation increases.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory divided the unit into 10 roadless areas; 6 are greater than 5,000 acres. One of these areas located in the central, mountainous portion of the unit contains wilderness characteristics. The recommended WSA contains 131,745 acres of public land. There are 9,080 acres of state and 100 acres of private inholdings.

NATURALNESS: All roadless areas in the original inventory unit generally appear natural. The recommended WSA contains 13 dirt tanks and 60 miles of jeep trail. Due to the vast size and varied topography of the recommended WSA, the cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable.

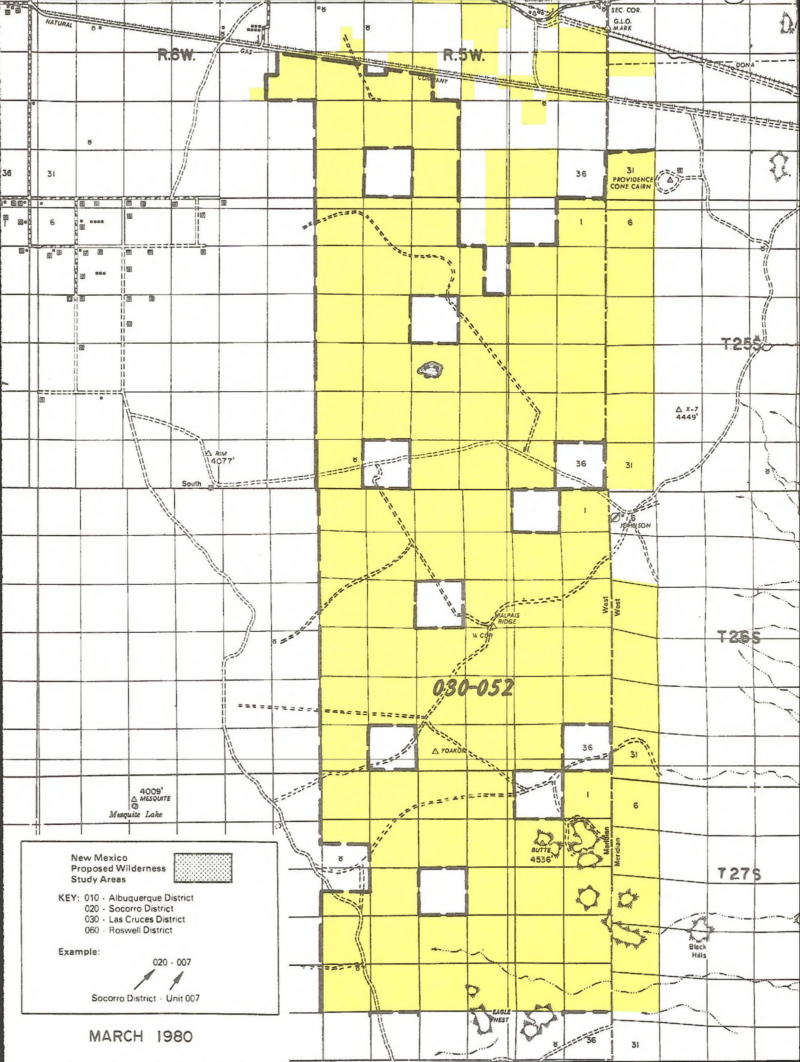
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The large size, configuration, and varied topography of the recommended WSA provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. Outstanding recreation opportunties include hiking, backpacking, photography, and geological sightseeing.

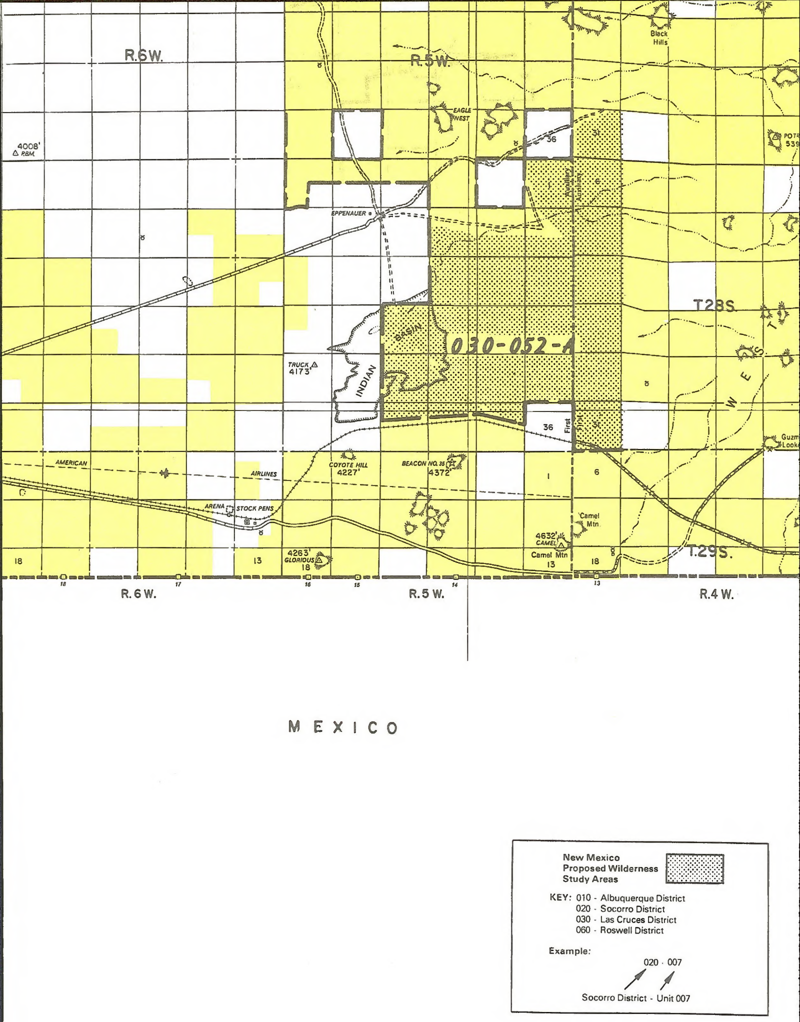
The 4 areas in the NW and western parts of the unit and the Mt. Riley area lack outstanding opportunities. In all of these areas the combinations of sparse vegetative screening, inadequate topographic screening, and/or size and configuration reduce opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Recreation opportunities lack the diversity and quality of opportunities available in the recommended WSA.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The recommended WSA contains geological supplemental values.

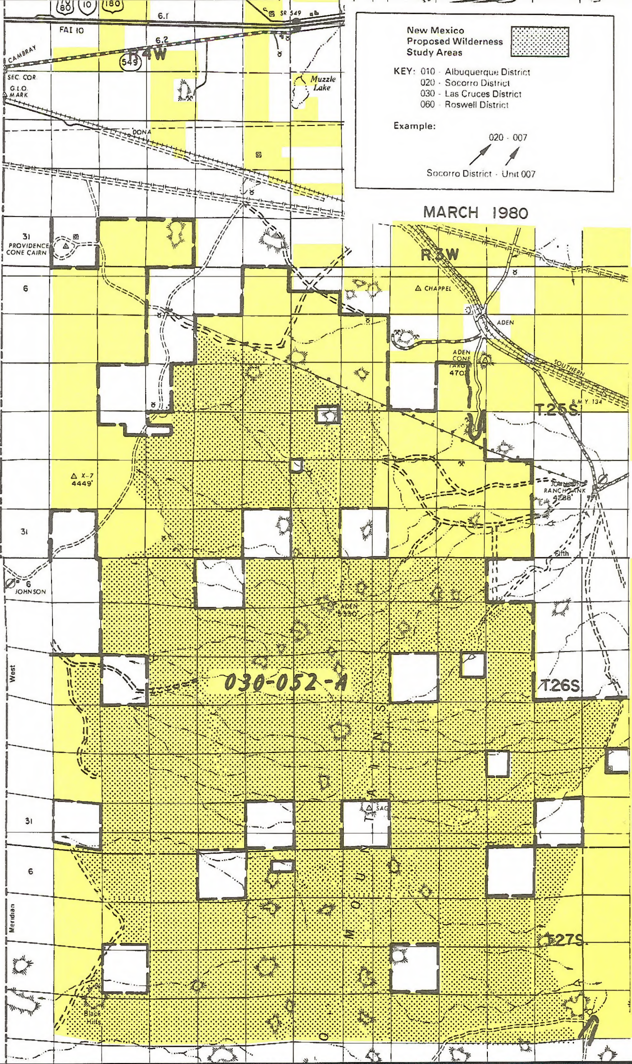
Recommendation

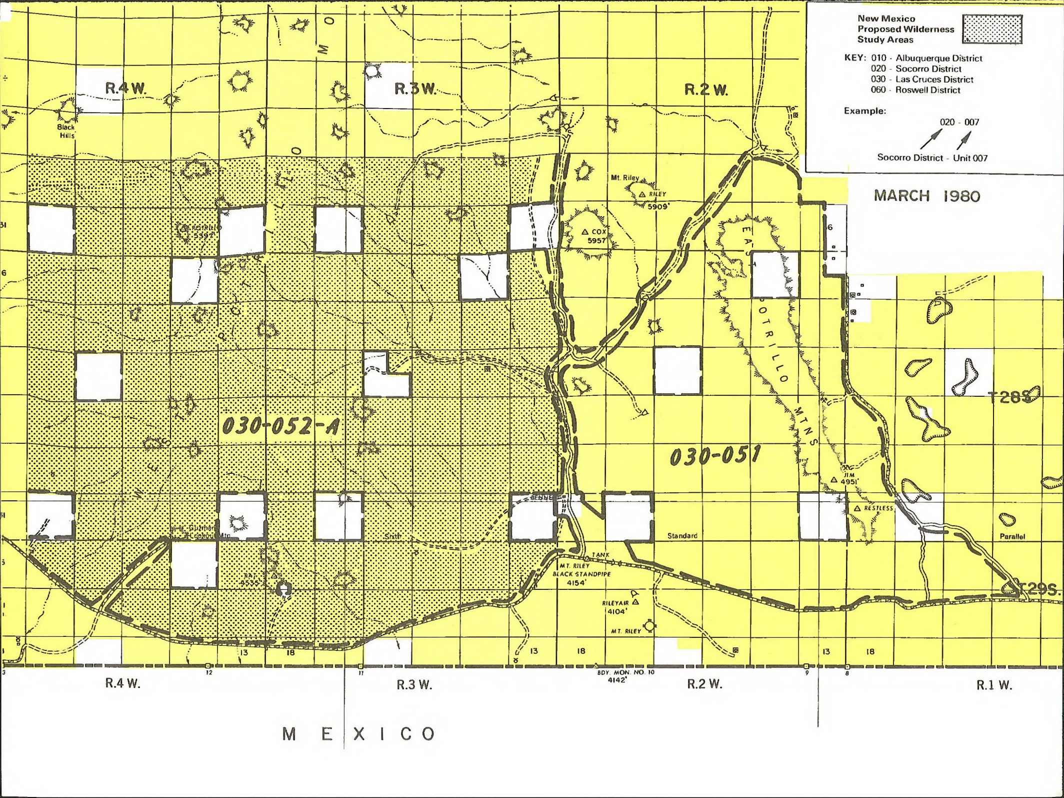
The central portion of this unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 131,745 acres of public land.


NATURAL
GAS
COMPANY
R.6W.
R.5W.
SEC. COR.
G.L.O. MARK
DONA
36
31
36
31
PROVIDENCE CONE CAIRN
6
1
6
T25S
X-7 4449'
RIM 4077'
South
36
31
1
6
JOHNSON
MALPAIS RIDGE
¼ COR
West
West
T26S
030-052
36
31
YOAKUM
1
6
4009'
MESQUITE
Mesquite Lake
BUTTE 4536'
Meridian
Meridian
T27S
Black Hills
EAGLE NEST
36
31
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980


R.6W.
R.5W.
Black Hills
EAGLE NEST
36
4008'
P.B.M.
EPPENAUER
Auxiliary
Auxiliary
T28S.
BASIN
030-052-A
INDIAN
TRUCK
4173'
36
First
AMERICAN
AIRLINES
COYOTE HILL
4227'
BEACON NO. 35
4372'
1
6
ARENA
STOCK PENS
Camel Mtn
4632'
CAMEL
Camel Mtn
13
18
13
4263'
GLORIOUS
18
18
T.29S.
Guzm
Looke
R.6W.
R.5W.
R.4W.
MEXICO
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-052-A
R4W
R3W
T.25S.
T.26S
T.27S.
FAI 10
CAMBRAY
SEC. COR.
G.L.O. MARK
Muzzle Lake
DONA
PROVIDENCE CONE CAIRN
CHAPPEL
ADEN
ADEN CONE
SOUTHERN
X-7 4449'
JOHNSON
Fifth
West
Meridian
Black Hills
SR 549



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.4 W.
R.3 W.
R.2 W.
R.1 W.
Black Hills
Mt. Riley
RILEY 5909'
COX 5957'
EAST POTRILLO MTNS
WEST POTRILLO MTNS
030-052-A
030-051
JIM 4951'
RESTLESS
Standard
Parallel
Smith
Guzman Lookout Mtn
TANK
MT. RILEY BLACK STANDPIPE 4154'
RILEYAIR 4104'
MT. RILEY
BDY. MON. NO. 10 4142'
T28S
T29S.
MEXICO

Aden Lava Flow NM-030-053 33,010 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 25 air miles SW of Las Cruces, NM. The majority of the unit consists of a basaltic pressure ridge, sinks, spatter cones, and other depressions typical of lava flow physiography. The southeastern portion of the unit is characterized by flat, sedimented lava features with little vegetation other than grass and small shrubs.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The recommended WSA contains 24,790 acres of public land and 1,280 acres of state inholdings. Recommended boundary adjustments along the NE, NW, western and southern boundaries of the unit would exclude portions of the unit lacking naturalness.

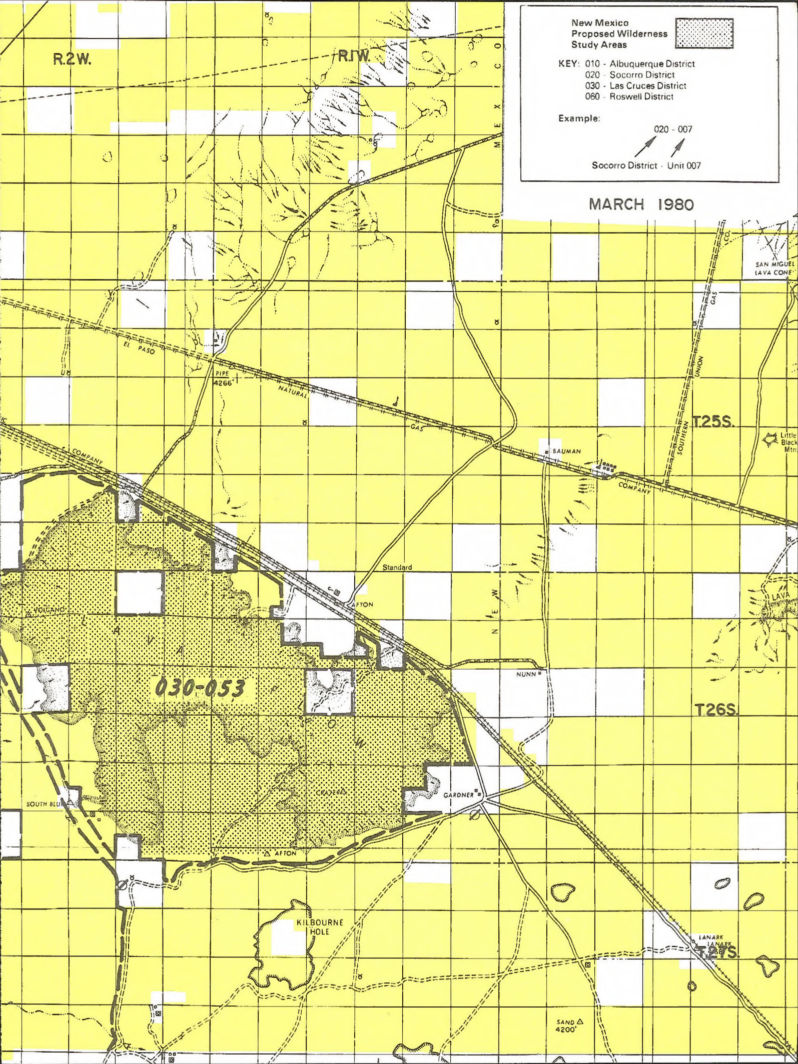
NATURALNESS: This unit generally appears natural. Imprints of man within the recommended WSA (access routes into Aden Crater and 4 miles of jeep trail in the SE part of the unit) are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. The portions of the unit excluded by the recommended boundary adjustments contain access routes, 4 drinking tubs and troughs, a pipeline, transmission line, corral, storage tank ("The Tub"), and the developments at Johnson Stockade.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. The varied topographic features of the majority of the unit as well as the large size provide outstanding opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of others. Recreational opportunities could include hiking, backpacking, nature study, and spelunking. These opportunities are not considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The NE portion of the Aden Lava Flow (4008 acres) was formally designated as a Research Natural Area in the Federal Register on Nov. 2, 1978.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 24,790 acres of public land.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.2W.
R.1W.
T.25S.
T.26S.
030-053
EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY
SOUTHERN UNION GAS CO.
SAN MIGUEL LAVA CONE
Little Black Mtn.
BAUMAN
Standard
AFTON
NUNN
GARDNER
VOLCANO
CRATER
SOUTH BLUE
AFTON
KILBOURNE HOLE
LANARK
SAND
4200'
PIPE
4266'
NEW MEXICO
LAVA

Robledo Mountains NM-030-063 38,670 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 3 miles northwest of Las Cruces, NM, just west of the Rio Grande. The Robledos, a small chain of rugged volcanic mountains, are in the northeast part of the unit, the Rough and Ready Hills to the northwest, and Corralitos Plateau, a flat mesa south of Indian Spring Canyon. Vegetation consists of grass associations in the mountainous terrain and creosote in the flat lands.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimate, this unit has been found to contain 38,590 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings.

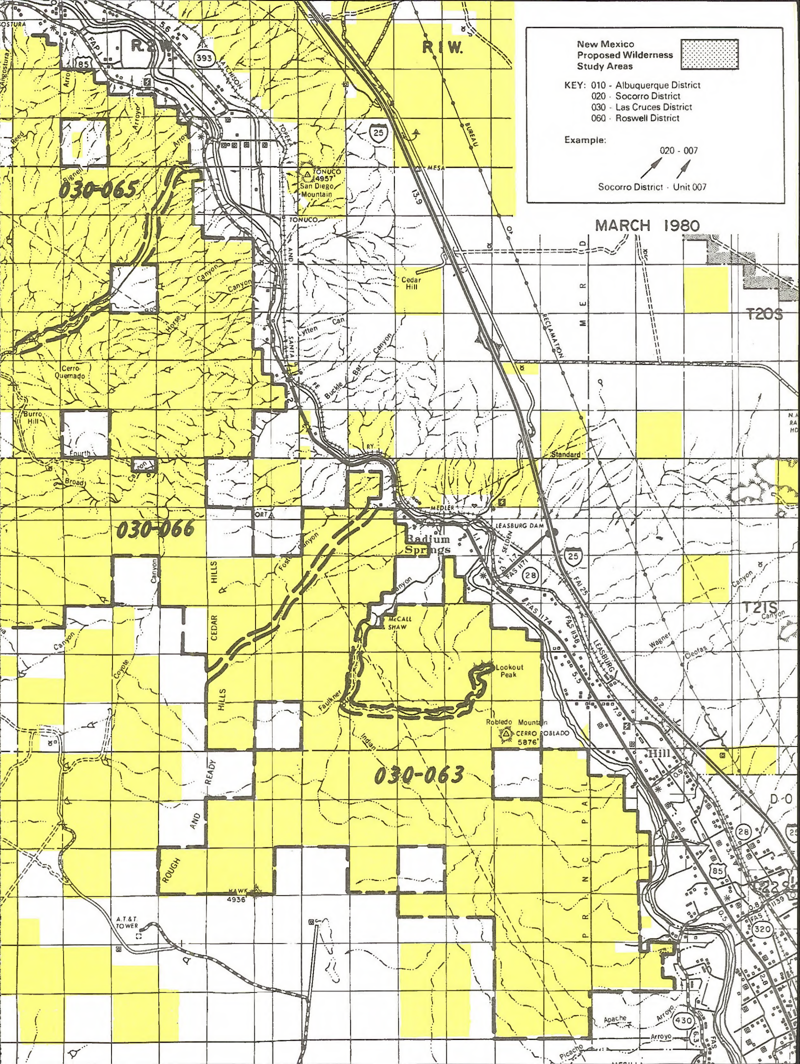
NATURALNESS: The unit does not generally appear natural. Approximately 40 miles of jeep trail disect the unit. Four dirt tanks, a windmill, and 3 drinking troughs are also in the unit. Although there are portions of the unit that remain natural, the cumulative impacts of the imprints of man (especially ORV trails) are substantially noticeable when considering the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Only the central portion of the unit appears natural. The configuration of this portion of the unit is very irregular due to the corridored road to Lookout Peak. This factor coupled with the severe ORV impacts in the southeast and northwest limit opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains historical, cultural, and geological supplemental values. There are also caves in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-065
030-066
030-063
R.2W.
R.1W.
T20S
T21S
Radium Springs
Lookout Peak
Robledo Mountain
CERRO ROBLADO 5876'
San Diego Mountain
TONUCO 4957
Cedar Hill
Cerro Quemado
Burro Hill
McCALL SHAW
LEASBURG DAM
A.T.&T. TOWER
HAWK 4936
CEDAR HILLS
ROUGH AND READY HILLS
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

Las Uvas Mountains NM-030-065 37,760 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 2 miles south of Hatch, NM, and contains the Las Uvas Mts. The Las Uvas are composed of tilted bedded volcanic rock with a gentle western slope and cliffs on the east side. Vegetation varies from desert shrubs, yucca, and creosote at lower elevations to juniper and grasses at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory reduced the size of the unit to 23,860 acres of public land. There are 40 acres of private and 1,280 acres of state inholdings.

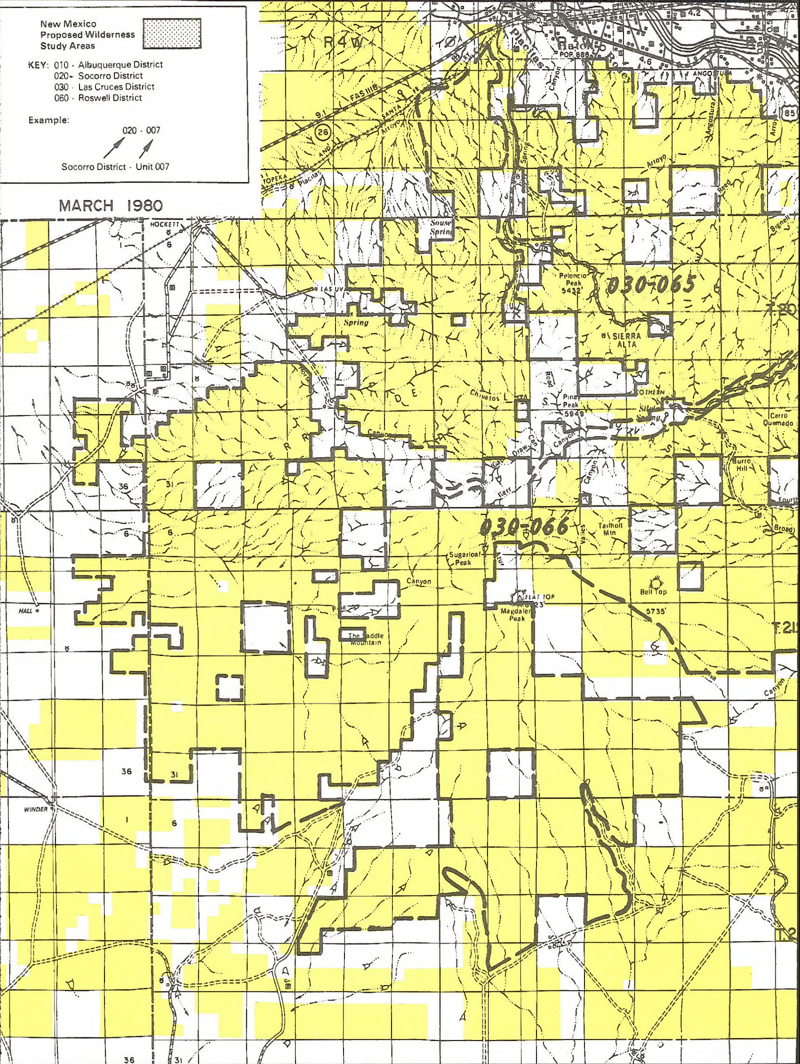
NATURALNESS: The unit lacks naturalness. Twelve miles of jeep trail and 10 miles of corridored roads (includes Rustler Fire Break) disect the unit. Additionally 14 dirt tanks, corrals, a windmill, and an area of historic terracing are in the unit. These imprints cumulatively and negatively impact the overall naturalness of the unit.

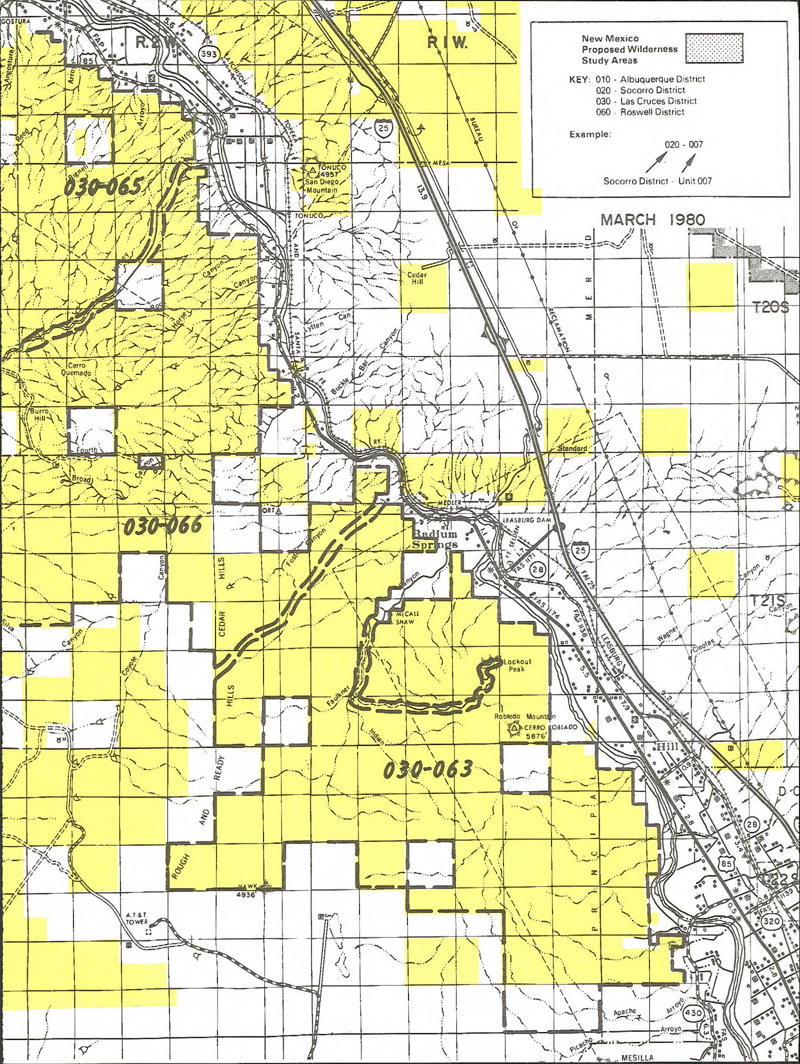
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Due to the location and number of developments, the spider web of corridored roads and trails, and the resulting irregular configuration, opportunities are considered less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-065
030-066
R4W
Placitas
Santa Fe
Topeka
Hockett
Souse Spring
Peloncio Peak 5432'
Sierra Alta
Chivatos
Pina Peak 5949'
Cerro Quemado
Burro Hill
Tailholt Mtn
Sugarloaf Peak
Flat Top
Magdalena Peak
Bell Top
5735'
The Saddle Mountain
Hall
Winder
Angostura
Canyon
Spring


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-065
030-066
030-063
R.2W.
R.1W.
T20S
T21S
TONUCO
4957
San Diego
Mountain
Cedar
Hill
Cerro
Quemado
Burro
Hill
Radium
Springs
LEASBURG DAM
McCALL
SHAW
Lookout
Peak
Robledo Mountain
CERRO ROBLADO
5876'
HAWK
4936'
A.T.&T.
TOWER
Standard
MEDLER
MESILLA
Apache
Arroyo
Picacho
BUREAU
RECLAMATION
MESA
SANTA FE
CEDAR HILLS
ROUGH AND READY HILLS
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

Magdalena Peak NM-030-066 82,247 acres

Unit Description

Located approximately 20 miles NE of Las Cruces, NM, this unit consists of volcanic ridges and canyons of the southern and western Uvas Mtns. Vegetation varies from desert shrub and shortgrass to juniper and grasses in higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory divided this unit into numerous areas; five of which are greater than 5,000 acres.

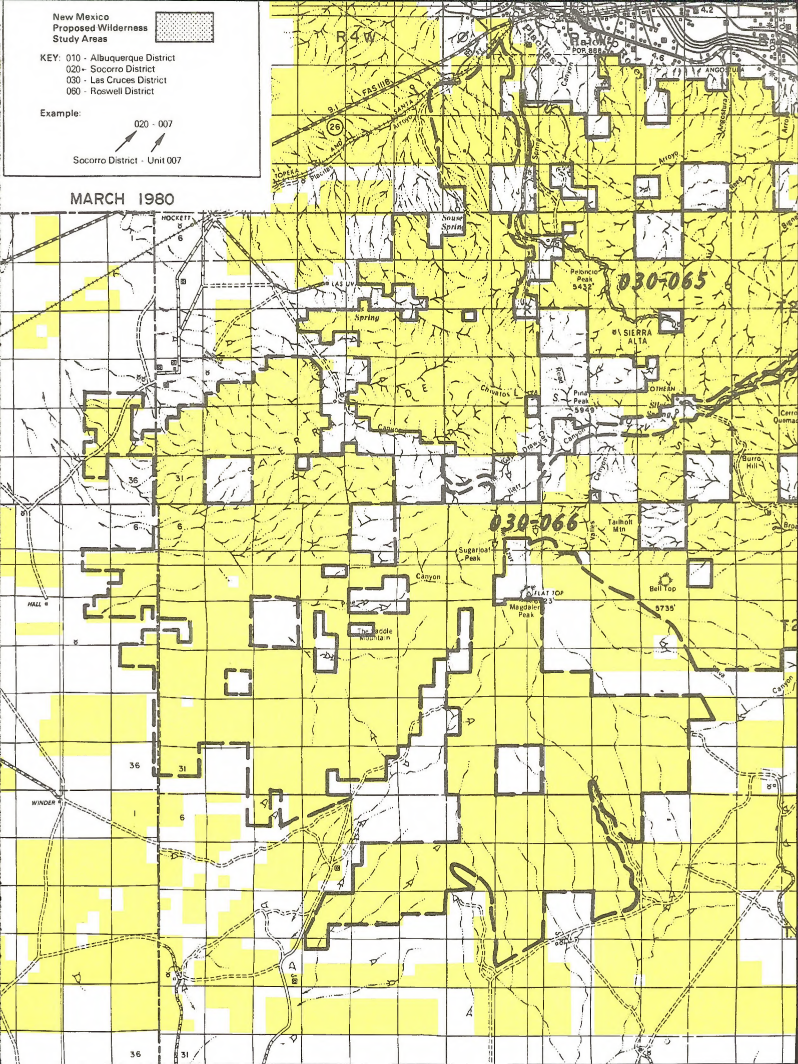
NATURALNESS: All five roadless areas lack naturalness. Numerous range improvements (dirt stock tanks, pipeline scars, drinking tubs, drift fences) are found throughout. There are also numerous jeep trails in the unit which provide access to these developments. These imprints cumulatively and negatively impact the naturalness of the unit.

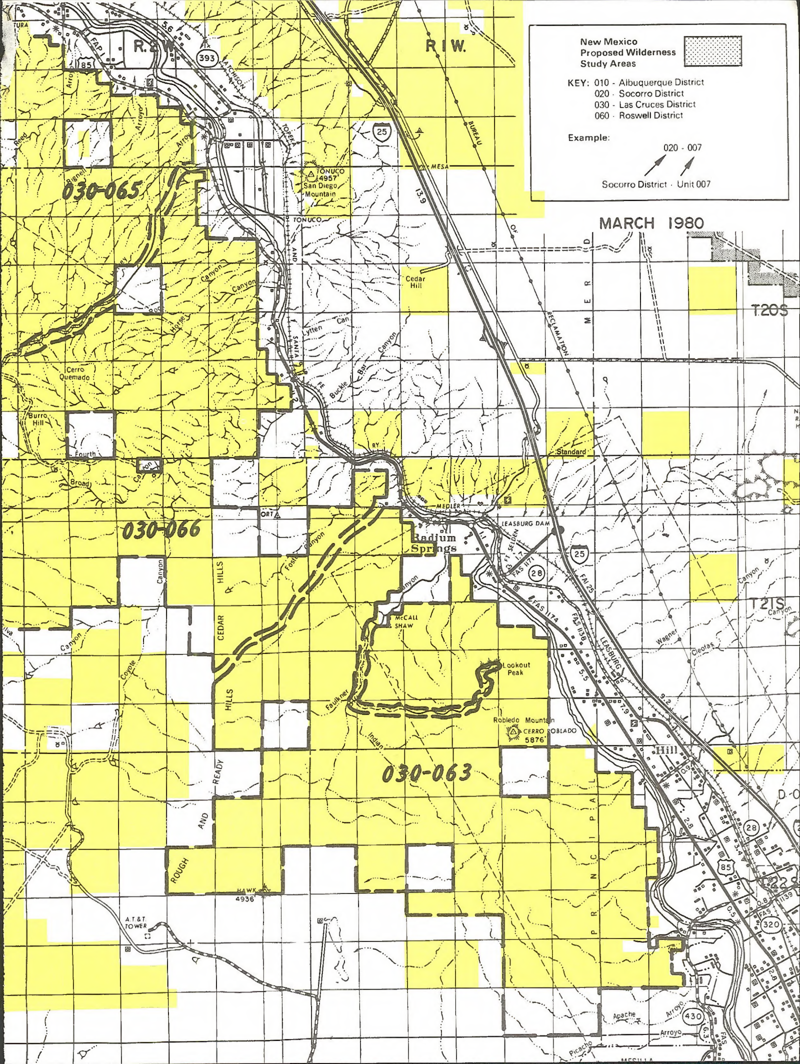
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Due to the irregular configurations of the areas (a result of corridored roads and ownership patterns) and their small sizes, combined with the number and location of improvements, outstanding opportunities are lacking.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-065
030-066
Peloncio Peak 5432'
SIERRA ALTA
Pina Peak 5949
Tailholt Mtn
Sugarloaf Peak
FLAT TOP
Magdalena Peak
Bell Top
5735'
The Saddle Mountain
HOCKETT
LAS UVAS
HALL
WINDER
TOPEKA
ANGOSTURA
Burro Hill
Souse Spring
Spring
Chivatos
Canyon
R 4 W



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-065
030-066
030-063
R.2W.
R.1W.
T20S
T21S
Radium Springs
Cedar Hill
Cerro Quemado
Burro Hill
TONUCO 4957'
San Diego Mountain
Lookout Peak
Robledo Mountain
CERRO ROBLADO 5876'
LEASBURG DAM
McCALL SHAW
A.T.&T. TOWER
HAWK 4936
ROUGH AND READY HILLS
CEDAR HILLS

Mine House Spring NM-030-074 7,710 acres

Unit Description

This unit is 15 miles east of Las Cruces, NM , south of Hwy. 70 and the town of Organ. The unit contains the northern Organ Mtns. and bordering alluvial fans. The Organs are characterized by rugged rock outcrops and massive, jagged vertical intrusions. Elevation ranges from 5,000' to 9,012'. Vegetation includes 4 life zones; the Lower and Upper Sonoran, Transition, and Canadian. Cacti, grasses, sotol, yucca, browse plants and bushes, oak, pine, spruce, and juniper are among the approximately 800 species that occur in the area.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The recommended WSA contains 7,200 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings. Boundary adjustments were made to exclude roads, mines, and portions of the unit lacking naturalness.

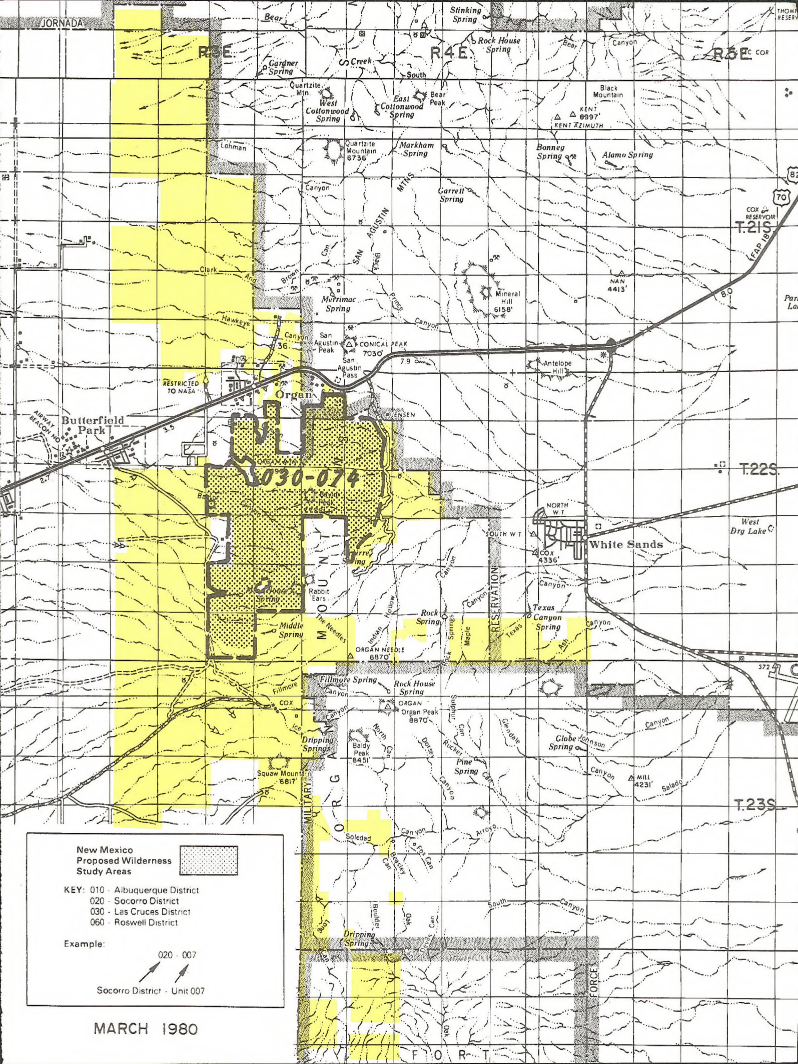
NATURALNESS: This unit generally appears natural. Imprints of man within the recommended WSA include the Baylor Pass National Recreation Trail (4.65 miles), fencing, gates, recreation signs, and one dirt detention dam. The cumulative impact of these imprints is not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. The portion of the unit excluded by the boundary adjustments contains the Aguirre Spring Campground Woodyard, powerlines, 2 mines, the Baylor Pass Trail parking area, and roads in the southern tip of the unit.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: This unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Rugged topography and the wide variety of vegetation provide ample screening for solitude. The unit offers an outstanding diversity in types of recreation: hiking, backpacking, mountain and rock climbing, sightseeing, and rockhounding opportunities are abundant.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains scenic, biological, and geological supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 7,200 acres of public land.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
030-074
JORNADA
R3E
R4E
R5E
T.21S
T.22S.
T.23S
Organ
Butterfield Park
White Sands
San Agustin Peak
CONICAL PEAK 7030'
San Agustin Pass
Quartzite Mountain 6736'
Mineral Hill 6158'
Antelope Hill
Squaw Mountain 6817'
Baldy Peak 8451'
ORGAN NEEDLE 8870'
Organ Peak 8870'
Rabbit Ears
Middle Spring
Fillmore Spring
Rock House Spring
Dripping Springs
Texas Canyon Spring
Globe Spring
Pine Spring
Soledad
Merrimac Spring
Garrett Spring
Markham Spring
Bonney Spring
Alamo Spring
Black Mountain
West Cottonwood Spring
East Cottonwood Spring
Gardner Spring
Stinking Spring
Rock House Spring
RESTRICTED TO NASA
NORTH W.T.
SOUTH W.T.
MILITARY
RESERVATION
FORT
West Dry Lake

Jornada Lava Flow | NM-030-081
NM-020-055 | 47,750 acres

Unit Description

This unit consists of contiguous units in the Socorro and Las Cruces Districts. Inventory was conducted jointly by the two districts. Located 32 air miles NE of Truth or Consequences, NM, just west of the White Sands Missile Range, the unit encompasses the eastern 1/3 of the Jornada Lava Flow, a creosote covered region to the south, and yucca flats to the north. The lava flow is composed of rolling and rough topography sparsely vegetated with grasses and desert shrub.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory reduced the size of the unit. The north, south, and east boundaries of the recommended WSA have been placed along jeep trails nearer the edges of the lava flow to exclude portions of the unit lacking wilderness characteristics. The recommended WSA contains 28,919 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.

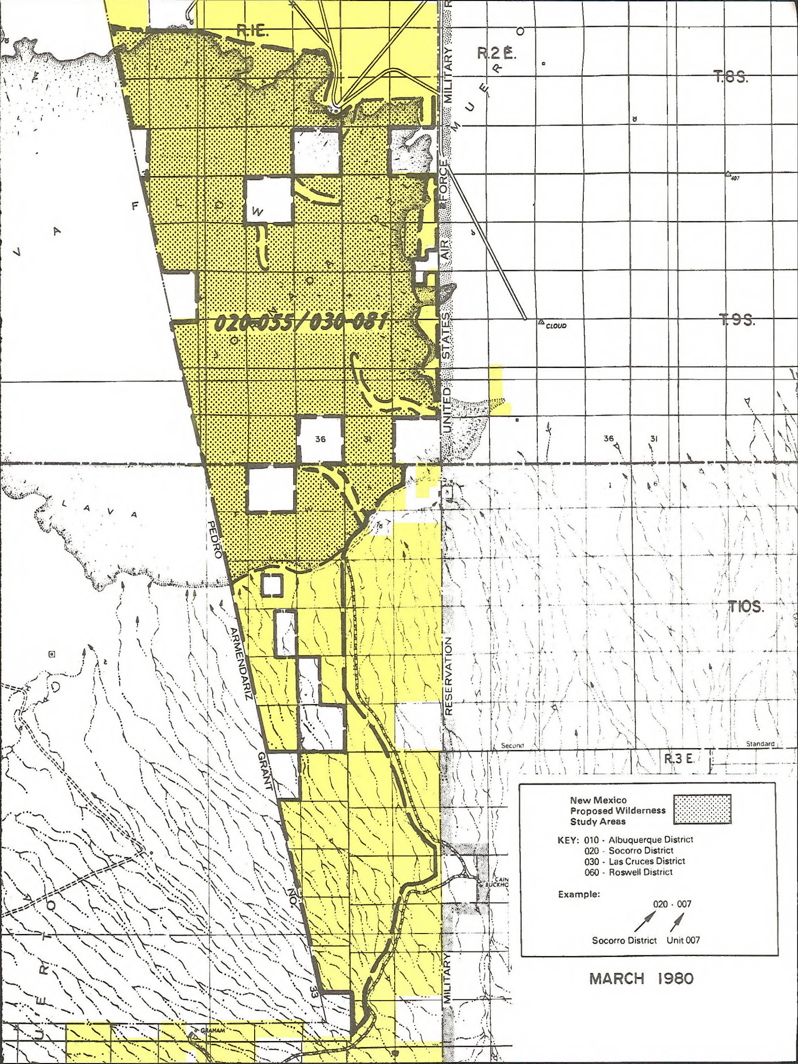
NATURALNESS: The recommended WSA appears natural. It contains fences and a jeep trail, but these imprints are topographically screened and unnoticeable in the unit as a whole. The portions of the unit excluded by the boundary adjustments contains 5 miles of buried pipeline, 8 drinking troughs, 2 storage tanks, 2 corrals, 2 windmills, and 8 miles of jeep trail.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The rugged, varied topography of the lava flow provides natural screening between visitors. Outstanding opportunities for hiking, photography, and sightseeing are available in the lava flow.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The lava flow contains scenic values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 28,919 acres of public land.


R.1E.
R.2E.
T.8S.
T.9S.
T10S.
R.3 E.
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MILITARY RESERVATION
PEDRO ARMENDARIZ GRANT NO. 33
020-055/030-081
CLOUD
GRAHAM
36
31
Second
Standard
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District
Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

This area is located approximately 30 miles east of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on the western slopes of the San Andres Mountains. It is characterized by limestone strata hills cut by east-west trending canyons. Vegetation types include creosote in the western flats, desert grassland in the intermediate zones, and pinyon-juniper in the upper reaches.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The unit contains 8,535 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.

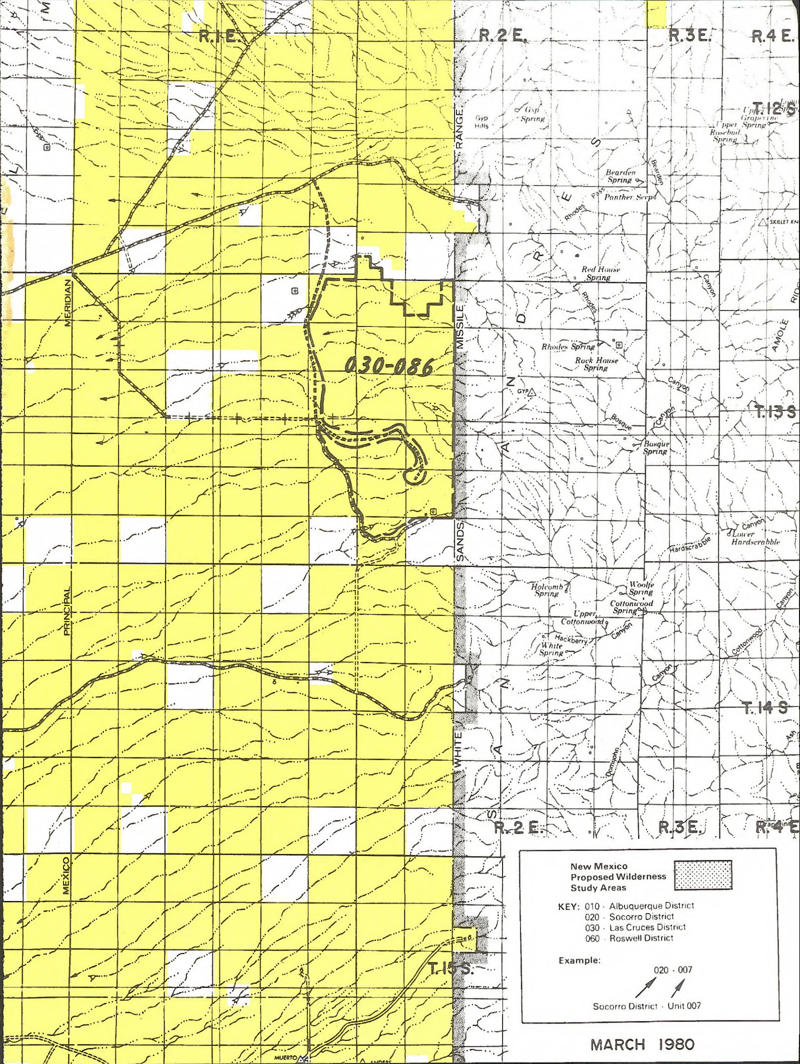
NATURALNESS: The unit does not generally appear natural. Almost every major canyon in the unit is impacted by a jeep trail. A total of 5 jeep trails, 3 dirt tanks, 2 steel storage tanks, a building, and a set of holding pens are found in the unit. The cumulative impacts of these imprints are substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Visitors to the unit would find it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of man around the numerous range developments in the central and southern parts of the unit. That portion of the unit that is undeveloped is too small to provide outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values within the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R.1 E.
R.2 E.
R.3 E.
R.4 E.
T.12 S
T.13 S
T.14 S
T.15 S.
MERIDIAN
PRINCIPAL
MEXICO
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
030-086
Gyp Hills
Gyp Spring
Bearden Spring
Bearden
Panther Seep
Rhodes Pass
Red House Spring
Rhodes
Rhodes Spring
Rock House Spring
GYP
Canyon
Bosque
Bosque Spring
AMOLE
SKILLET KN
Upper Grapevine Spring
Upper Rosebud Spring
Lower Hardscrabble
Hardscrabble
Holcomb Spring
Woolfe Spring
Cottonwood Spring
Upper Cottonwood
Hackberry
White Spring
Cottonwood
Ash
Domingo
MUERTO
ANDERS
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 · Albuquerque District
020 · Socorro District
030 · Las Cruces District
060 · Roswell District
Example:
020 · 007
Socorro District · Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Little Black Peak NM-030-109 18,800 acres

Unit Description

Located 3 miles NW of Carrizozo, NM, this unit consists of the portion of the Carrizozo Lava Flow North of Highway 380. Little Black Peak marks the most prominent lava cone in the flow. Elongate pressure ridges, fissures, and circular depressions characterize the terrain. Vegetation consists of pinon-juniper, cacti, and grass associations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Boundary adjustments to exclude 2 roads along the western edge of the lava flow reduced the size of the unit to 15,910 acres of public land. WSA boundary adjustments in the NE part of the unit would exclude 2 narrow fingers that extend beyond the lava flow and lack outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The recommended WSA contains 15,570 acres of public land and 640 acres of state inholdings.

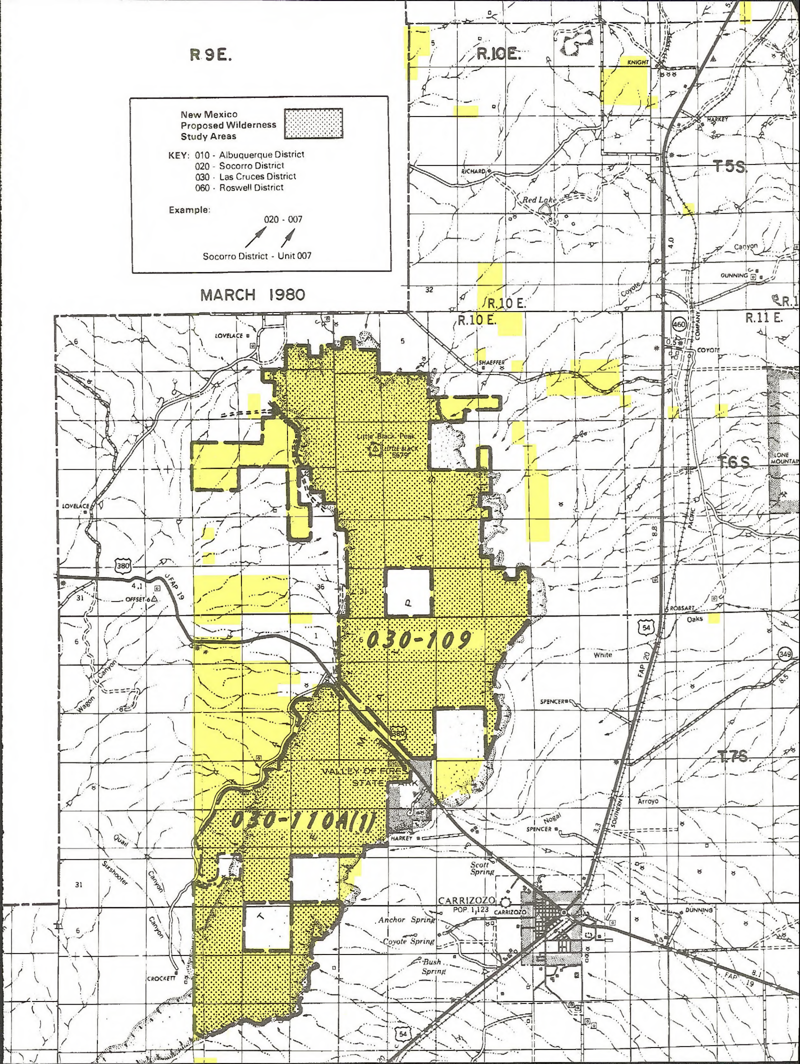
NATURALNESS: The unit is primarily natural. Imprints of man include 3 jeep trails along the NW, NE, and SE boundaries and 6 prospect trenches in Section 9, T. 7 S., R. 10 E. Their cumulative impacts are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. Recommended WSA boundary adjustments would exclude the jeep trail in the NE part of the unit.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Rugged topography, limited access, and large size contribute to opportunities for solitude. Outstanding recreational opportunities include hiking, sightseeing, photography, and nature study.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains biological and geological supplemental values.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 15,570 acres of public land.


R 9E.
R.10E.
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
KNIGHT
HARKEY
T5S.
RICHARD
Red Lake
Canyon
DUNNING
Coyote
R.10 E.
R.11 E.
LOVELACE
COYOTE
SHAEFFER
Little Black Peak
T6S.
LONE MOUNTAIN
LOVELACE
380
OFFSET-6
ROBSART
Oaks
030-109
White
Wagon
Canyon
SPENCER
T7S.
VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK
Arroyo
030-110A(1)
Nogal
SPENCER
HARKEY
Quail
Sixshooter
Canyon
Scott Spring
CARRIZOZO
POP. 1,123
DUNNING
Anchor Spring
Coyote Spring
Bush Spring
CROCKETT
54
FAP 19
FAP 20
SOUTHERN
PACIFIC
COMPANY

Carrizozo Lava Flow NM-030-110A 36,695 acres

Unit Description

This unit, located 4 miles west of Carrizozo, NM, consists of the Carrizozo Lava Flow south of Hwy. 380 and flat to rolling desert grasslands to the west and south. Vegetation consists of cacti/grass associations with some pinyon-juniper in the lava flow.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to revised estimates, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 38,160. Two roads divide unit 030-110A into 3 roadless areas greater than 5,000 acres: South-10,440 acres, Northwest-6,190, Northeast-20,065 acres.

NATURALNESS: The Southern area contains 7 miles of jeep trail, 3 dirt tanks, a powerline, and a telephone line. These imprints cumulatively impact the naturalness of this area.

The naturalness of the Northwest area is cumulatively impacted by 7 spreader dams, 2 dirt tanks, 8 miles of jeep trail, 4 tubs, 3 miles of pipeline, and a 30,000 gallon white storage tank conspicuously located on top of a hill.

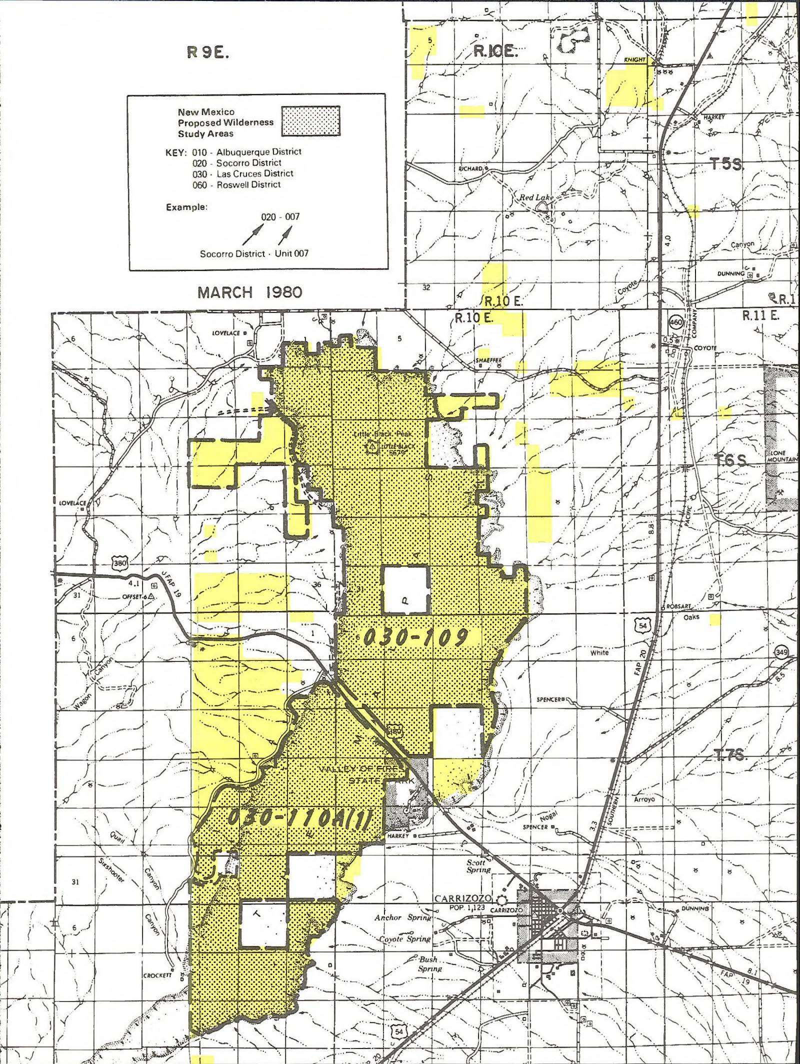
The lava flow portion of the Northeast area appears natural and comprises the recommended WSA. Imprints of man (2 miles of jeep trail) are negligible. Boundary adjustments would exclude an abandoned well, 2 dirt tanks, 5 spreader dams, 9 miles of jeep trail, and 2 mineral material sales sites from the WSA.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The rough topography and diverse vegetation of the lava flow enhance outstanding opportunities for solitude within the recommended WSA. Outstanding opportunities for hiking, hunting, photography, and sightseeing are available within the recommended WSA.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains geological and biological supplemental values.

Recommendation

A portion of this unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 11,000 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings.


R 9E.
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.10E.
R.10 E.
R.11 E.
T5S
T6S
T7S
030-109
030-110A(1)
Little Black Peak
VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK
LOVELACE
KNIGHT
HARKEY
RICHARD
Red Lake
DUNNING
Canyon
Coyote
COYOTE
SHAEFFER
LONE MOUNTAIN
OFFSET
ROBSART
Oaks
White
SPENCER
Arroyo
Nogal
Scott Spring
CARRIZOZO
POP. 1,123
Anchor Spring
Coyote Spring
Bush Spring
CROCKETT
Quail
Sixshooter
Canyon
Wagon
FAP 19
FAP 20
SOUTHERN
PACIFIC
COMPANY

Brokeoff Mountains NM-030-112 58,200 acres

Unit Description

Located 35 miles SW of Carlsbad, this unit contains the Brokeoff Mtns. and gently sloping to flat westward-radiating alluvial fans. The topography is characterized by numerous rugged, rocky, and steep canyons. Vegetation consists of desert shrub, cacti, and grasses with sparse pinyon-juniper at higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified in inventory reduced the size of the unit and divided it into 3 roadless areas (North, South, and East) greater than 5,000 acres. Two of these areas are proposed WSAs: North Brokeoff Mtns. (030-112A, 13,780 acres public land, 640 acres state inholdings) and South Brokeoff Mtns. (030-112B, 9,720 acres public land). The South Brokeoffs are contiguous to a designated National Park Service wilderness in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

NATURALNESS: The two recommended WSAs generally appear natural. Imprints within 030-112A include 5 steel tanks, associated jeep trails (NE edge of unit) and 2 dirt tanks. Proposed WSA, 030-112B, contains 2 abandoned dirt tanks, a shack, and 2 jeep trails. The cumulative impacts of these developments are not substantially noticeable in either proposed WSA.

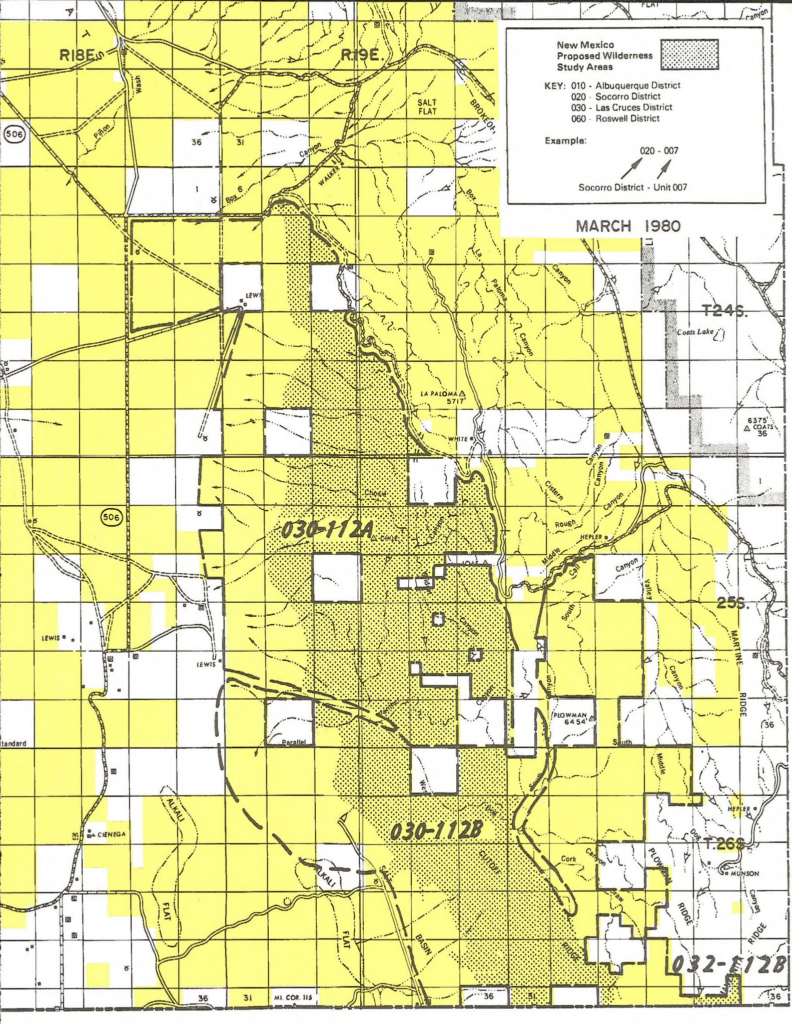
The East Brokeoff Mtns. (030-112C) do not appear natural. Big Ridge is the major topographic feature in this area. A N-S jeep trail, fenceline, and a green steel tank are located on the Ridge. Due to the location of these imprints coupled with the size and shape of the unit, naturalness is cumulatively and negatively impacted.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Both proposed WSAs contain outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The numerous rugged canyons in both areas are far removed from the sights and sounds of man. Outstanding hiking, rock climbing photography, and sightseeing opportunities are available. The western boundaries for both proposed WSAs was drawn along the 3,900 elevation mark to exclude portions of the unit lacking outstanding opportunities due to inadequate vegetative or topographic screening.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: No known supplemental values exist within the unit.

Recommendation

Two areas within this unit contain wilderness characteristics and qualify for wilderness study (see above for acreages).


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R18E.
R19E.
T24S.
25S.
T.26S.
030-112A
030-112B
032-112B
SALT FLAT
LA PALOMA 5717'
PLOWMAN 6454'
6375' COATS 36
Coats Lake
WHITE
HEPLER
LEWIS
CIENEGA
MUNSON
MARTINE RIDGE
PLOWMAN RIDGE
ALKALI FLAT
BASIN
CUTOFF RIDGE
Standard
MI. COR. 115
506

Little Dog Canyon NM-030-114 16,455 acres

Unit Description

Little Dog Canyon is located 25 miles southeast of Pinon, New Mexico and 20 miles north of the New Mexico/Texas border. The northeast boundary is contiguous with U.S. Forest Service RARE II Area #3-074 which was designated for further planning. The western portion of the unit consists of creosote flats while, to the east, Little Dog and several smaller canyons cut into the Guadalupe Rim. Vegetation consists of creosote, cacti and grass associations in the lower elevations and cacti/grass associations of higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Roads identified during the intensive inventory divide this unit into four separate areas with each being contiguous to the RARE II unit. Lands along the western boundary which lack naturalness have been excluded. The recommended WSA acreage is 4,787. There are no State or private inholdings.

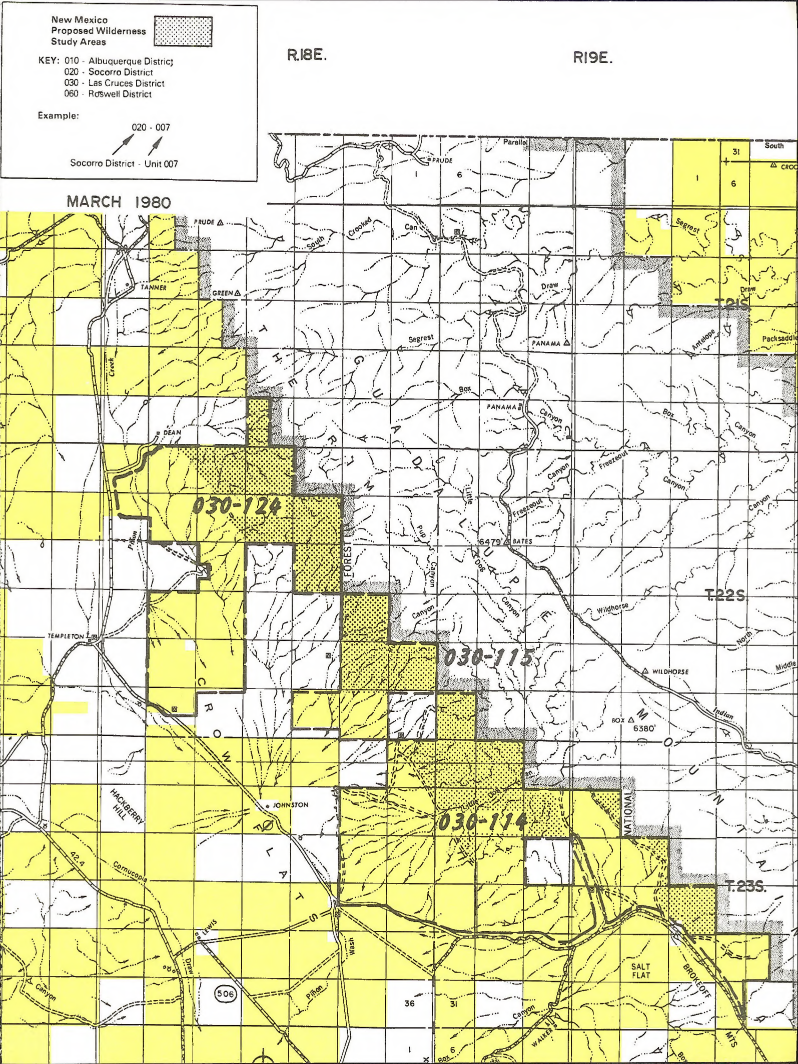
NATURALNESS: There are no imprints of man within the recommended WSA and the area generally appears to be natural. The southwest boundary of the recommended area lies along a jeep trail and fence line running northwest to southeast. Recommended boundary adjustments exclude a dirt tank, a steel storage tank, 4 miles of jeep trail and several fence lines.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: When considered independently of the Forest Service RARE II unit, Little Dog Canyon does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. However, when these areas are evaluated in conjunction with the RARE II unit, outstanding opportunities are present.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no supplemental values within the unit.

Recommendation

Portions of this unit contain wilderness characteristics and 4,787 acres are recommended for wilderness study.


New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.18E.
R19E.
T.21S.
T.22S.
T.23S.
030-124
030-115
030-114
PRUDE
TANNER
GREEN
DEAN
TEMPLETON
JOHNSTON
HACKBERRY HILL
LEWIS
PANAMA
BATES
6479'
WILDHORSE
BOX
6380'
SALT FLAT
WALKER
Segrest
Crooked
South
Draw
Box
Canyon
Freezeout
Little
Dog
Pup
Wildhorse
North
Middle
Indian
Antelope
Packsaddle
Parallel
Cornucopia
Piñon
Wash
Creek
FOREST
NATIONAL
BROKEOFF
MTS
THE GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS
CROW FLATS
506
42.4
36
31
1
6

Wind Mountain NM-030-135 7,720 acres

Unit Description

This unit lies 67 air miles SE of Alamogordo, NM in the Cornudas Mountains. The NM-Texas border forms the southern boundary. The major physiographic features of the unit are a portion of Wind Mountain and the northern edge of Chattfield Mountain. Vegetation is predominantly cacti/grass associations with creosote to the NE and east.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 6,045. There are no State or private inholdings.

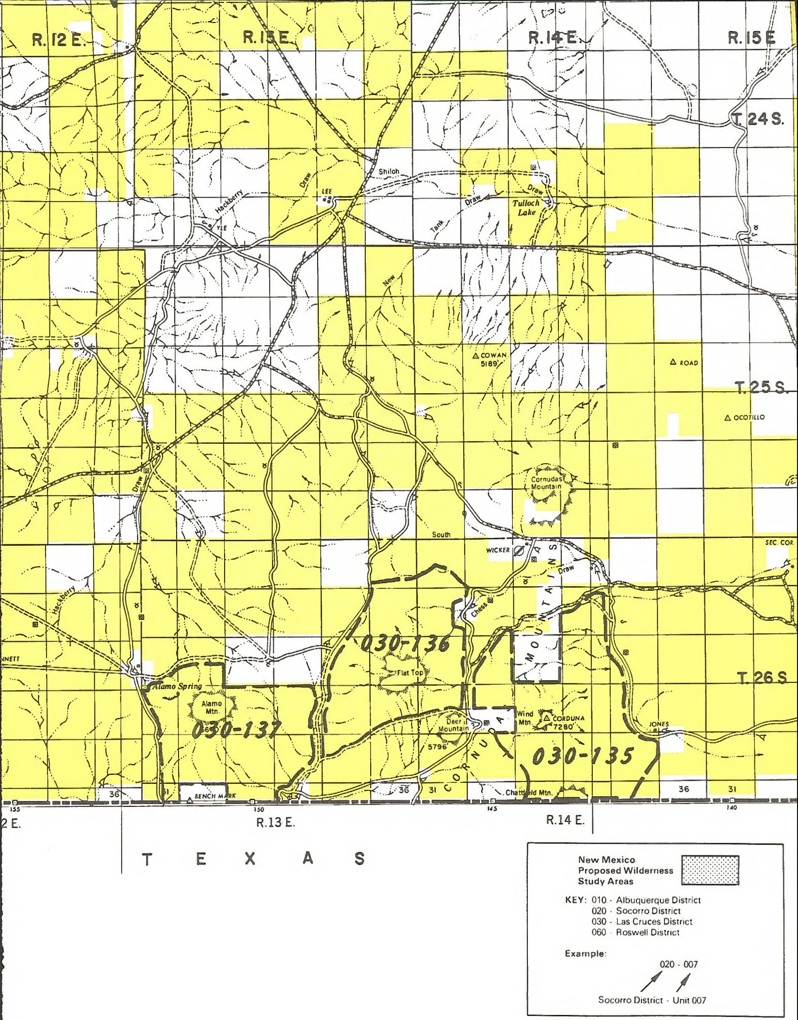
NATURALNESS: The unit does not appear to be natural. The unit contains a 2-track jeep trail in the SW part of the unit, a fenceline on the west side of Wind Mountain, and an abandoned dirt tank in the SE portion of the unit. A well and corral are located in the canyon between Wind Mountain and Chattfield Mountain. Due to the locations of these imprints, their cumulative impacts are substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The configuration of the unit (most of the north slope of Wind Mountain is outside of the unit) combined with limited topographic and vegetative screening restrict opportunities for solitude. Visitors would tend to concentrate between Wind and Chattfield Mts., and the sights and sounds of others would be unavoidable. The unit's small size and irregular shape also reduce opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation to less than outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


R. 12 E.
R. 13 E.
R. 14 E.
R. 15 E
T. 24 S.
T. 25 S.
T. 26 S.
Shiloh
LEE
Draw
Hackberry
YLE
Tulloch Lake
Tank
New
COWAN 5189'
ROAD
OCOTILLO
Cornudas Mountain
South
WICKER
SEC. COR.
Chess
MOUNTAINS
030-136
Flat Top
Alamo Spring
Alamo Mtn.
030-137
Deer Mountain
5796
Wind Mtn.
CORDUNA 7280'
030-135
JONES
CORNUDA
BENCH MARK
Chatfield Mtn.
36
31
2 E.
R.13 E.
R.14 E.
T E X A S
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Flat Top | NM-030-136 | 5,340 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 65 air miles SE of Alamogordo, NM, near the NM/Texas border. The unit contains a mesa-like eroded intrusive igneous mountain and surrounding hills and flats. Vegetation consists of desert shrub, cacti, and shortgrasses.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 5,120. There are no State or private inholdings.

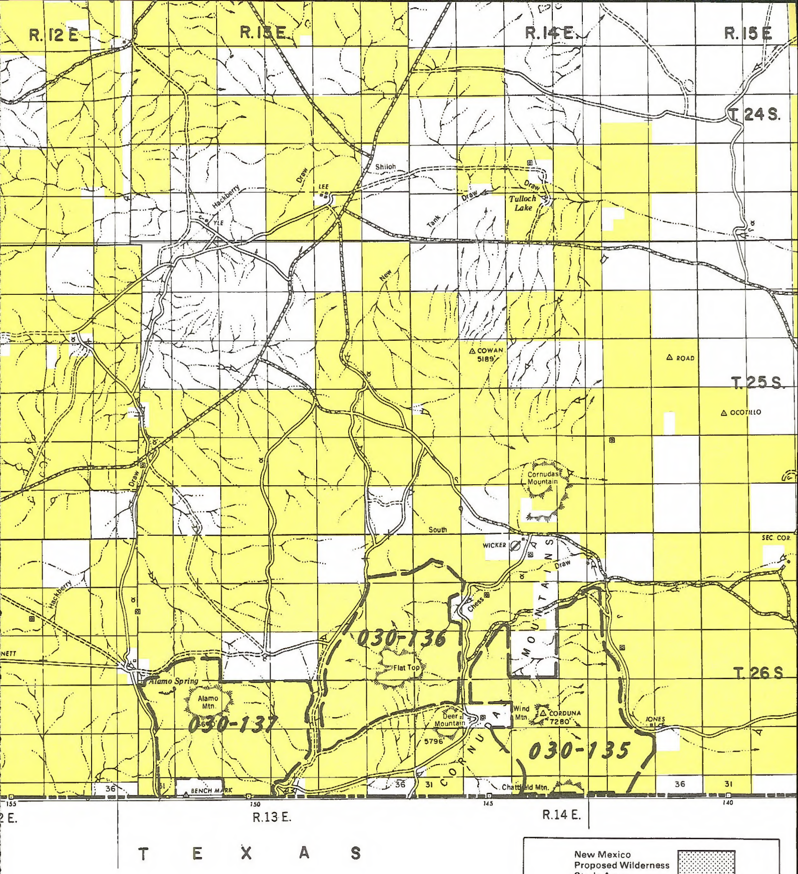
NATURALNESS: This unit generally appears natural. The unit contains approximately 1 mile of jeep trail, a dirt tank and 1.5 miles of powerline. The powerline is in trespass and for the purpose of wilderness inventory, was ignored. The cumulative impacts of these imprints are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Flat Top Mt. rises from slightly rolling terrain and covers less than 3 sections. It is possible to see most of the unit from the sides of the mountain. The small size of the unit coupled with the lack of topographic or vegetative screening reduce opportunities to avoid the sights and sounds of man. The portion of the unit that would be of interest to recreationists, Flat Top Mt. itself, is not large enough to offer outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are no known supplemental values within the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas

KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District

Example:

020 - 007

Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Alamo Mountain NM-030-137 5,090 acres

Unit Description

This unit lies approximately 65 air miles SSE of Alamogordo, NM in the Cornudas Mountains. The unit is bound on the south by the New Mexico/Texas border. Alamo Mountain dominates the unit (elevation 6670 feet). The NW and west boundaries lie along the base of the mountain. The eastern and southern portions of the unit consist of sloping to flat terrain. Vegetation consists of grass associations in the higher elevations and grass/cacti associations in the lower elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, the number of acres being intensively inventoried is 5,130. There are no State or private inholdings.

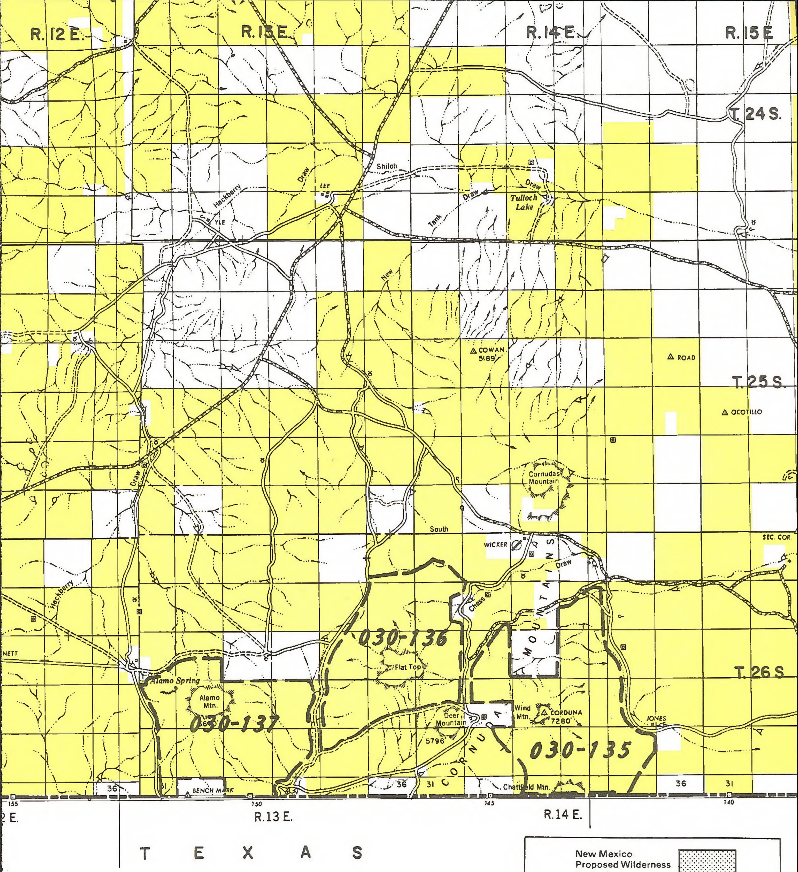
NATURALNESS: The unit does not generally appear natural. The unit contains 2 dirt tanks, abandoned building foundations (filled with trash), and a N-S fenceline through the western portion of the unit. The location of these imprints in combination with the unit's small size results in a cumulative impact on naturalness that is substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit's small size, topography, sparse vegetation, and configuration (the NE portion of the mountain is outside the unit) make it difficult to avoid the sights and sounds of others. The portions of Alamo Mt. within the unit do not offer opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation that are considered outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: A part of the historical Butterfield Stage Station is located in the unit.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.



New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas

KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District

Example:

020 - 007

Socorro District - Unit 007

MARCH 1980

Culp Canyon NM-030-152 11,080 acres

Unit Description

This unit is located 22 air miles SSE of Alamogordo, NM in the northern part of the McGregor Military Reservation. The unit contains rolling to very steep limestone hills and the mountain footslopes of the Sacramentos. Vegetation consists of grasses, desert shrub, yucca, and cacti, with some pinon-juniper in the NE portion of the unit.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The unit contains 11,080 acres of public land. There are no state or private inholdings. The recommended WSA contains 10,937 acres of public and would exclude portions of the unit along the NW and Southern boundaries where naturalness is locally impacted.

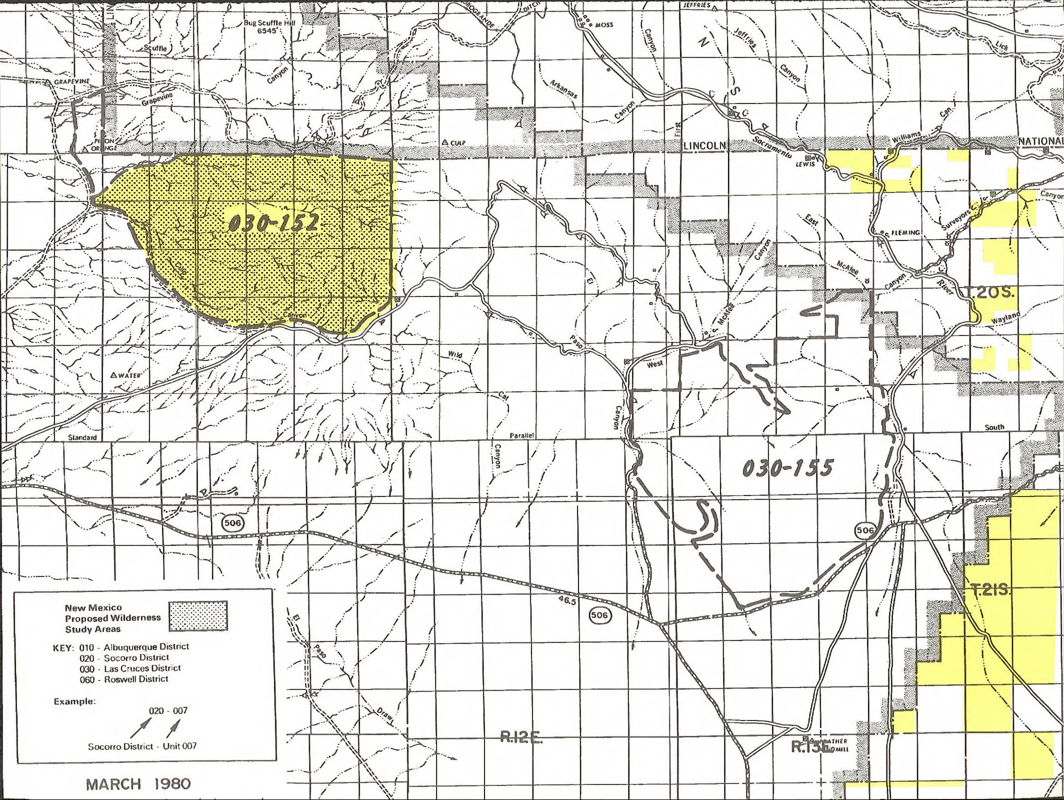
NATURALNESS: The unit as a whole generally appears natural. The recommended WSA contains an abandoned and revegetating dirt tank, fences, and 2 miles of jeep trail. The cumulative impacts of these imprints are not substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole. Boundary adjustments would exclude a raised aqueduct and 2-track jeep trail in the NW and 3 steel tanks and a dirt dam along the southern boundary.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The area contains outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The unit is remote and rugged and offers good topographic screening for solitude. The unit's size, configuration, and topography create outstanding and challenging opportunities for hiking. Outstanding hunting opportunities are also available within the unit.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains prehistoric cultural sites that may be eligible for National Register status. The area may possibly provide habitat for threatened and endangered animal species.

Recommendation

This unit contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study. The recommended WSA contains 10,937 acres of public land.


030-152
030-155
T.20S.
T.21S.
R.12E.
R.13E.
LINCOLN
NATIONAL
Bug Scuffle Hill
6545'
Scuffle
GRAPEVINE
Grapevine
Canyon
Arkansas
MOSS
JEFFRIES
Jeffries
Lick
Sacramento
LEWIS
Williams
FLEMING
Surveyors
East
McAfee
River
Wayland
South
First
CULP
WATER
Culp
Wild
Cat
Parallel
Standard
El
Paso
West
Draw
506
46.5
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Cress Garden NM-030-155 11,760

Unit Description

This unit is located in the NE corner of the McGregor Military Reservation. Topography is mostly flat in the southern part of the unit. The central portion of the unit is open and mesa-like, surrounded by more rolling topography. Vegetation consists of grasses, yucca, and cacti with scattered pinyon-juniper in the higher elevations.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Due to a revised estimate, this unit has been found to contain 13,260 acres of public land. There are no State or private inholdings.

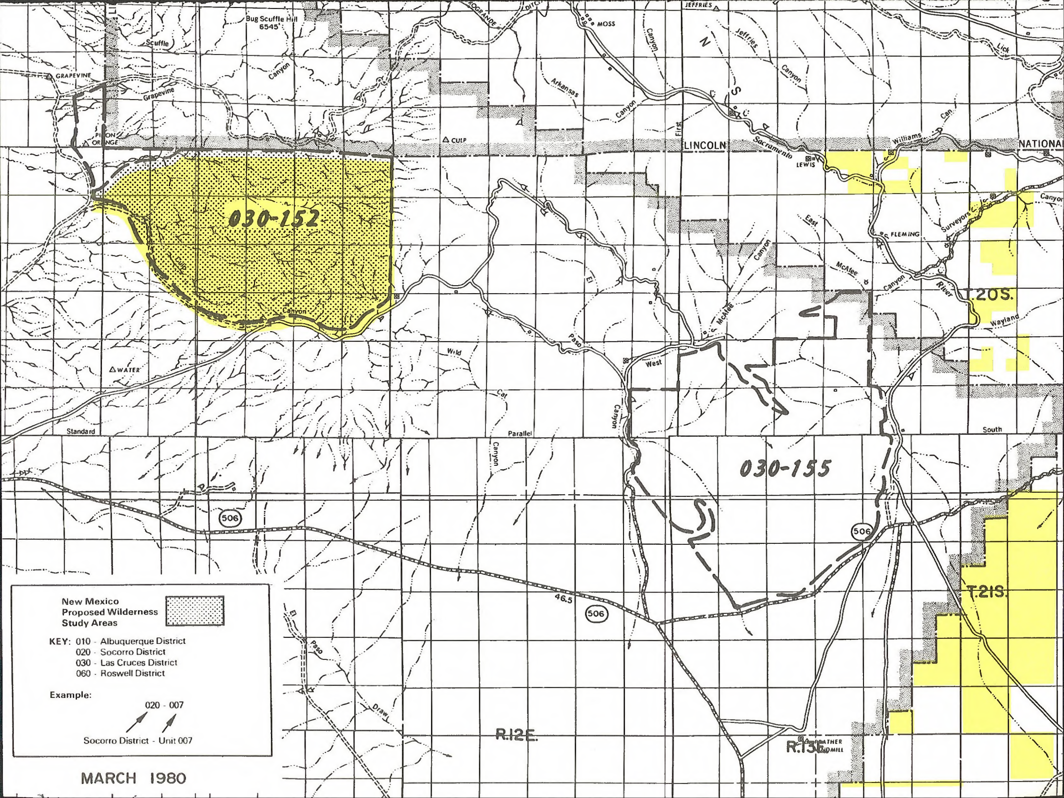
NATURALNESS: This unit does not generally appear natural. The unit contains 6 large dirt tanks, 8 miles of jeep trails, 2 steel storage tanks, 2 drinking troughs, an earth dike, and a sizeable cleaned ditch. The cumulative impacts of these imprints are substantially noticeable in the unit as a whole.

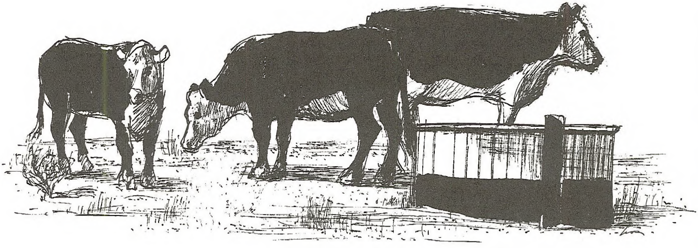
OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The unit lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Open areas in the southern and north-central parts of the unit lack topographic screening. Vegetative screening which would enhance solitude is sparse. Potential recreational opportunities (hiking, hunting, sightseeing) are typical of opportunities found throughout the district. The unit does not offer either an outstanding diversity in types of recreation or an outstanding quality in any one opportunity.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: There are prehistoric cultural sites found throughout the unit. They may be eligible for national register status.

Recommendation

This unit lacks wilderness characteristics and does not qualify for wilderness study.


030-152
030-155
LINCOLN
NATIONAL
T.20S.
T.21S.
R.12E.
R.13E.
506
46.5
Bug Scuffle Hill
6545'
GRAPEVINE
Grapevine
Scuffle
CULP
WATER
MOSS
JEFFRIES
Jeffries
Arkansas
First
Sacramento
LEWIS
Williams
FLEMING
Surveyors
River
Wayland
McAfee
East
West
Canyon
El
Paso
Wild
Cat
Parallel
Standard
South
Draw
New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980



ROSWELL DISTRICT

James H. O'Connor, District Manager

Unit Description

Mescalero Sands is located approximately 37 miles east of Roswell, New Mexico. The northern boundary of this unit is located 3 miles south of U.S. Highway 380. Unit 501 is composed primarily of low rolling sand dunes stabilized by a heavy cover of shinnery oak vegetation. A few large active sand dunes are located in the middle of the unit.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Originally this unit contained 10,800 acres. Boundary adjustments have reduced the size to 10,575 acres. There is one section of state inholding and no private inholdings.

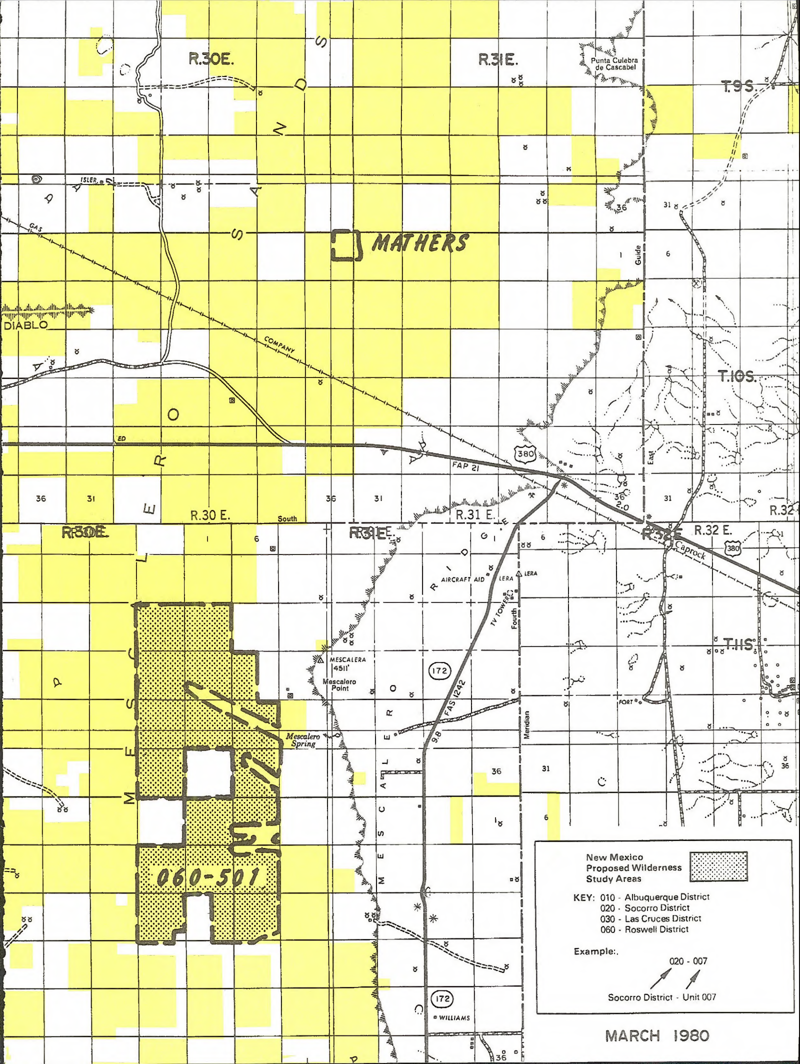
NATURALNESS: Mescalero Sands generally appears natural. Developments within the unit consist of 11 vehicle trails, one abandoned windmill with water tank, 2 wildlife waters and 17.6 miles of barbed wire fences. The cumulative impact of these developments is substantially unnoticeable due to the screening effect of the rolling topography.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The hummocky micro-relief of this unit provides natural screening and buffers visitors from one another and provides an outstanding opportunity for solitude. Mescalero Sands does not provide an outstanding opportunity for unconfined recreation due to its configuration and numerous intrusions.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains cultural, scientific and scenic values.

Recommendation

Mescalero Sands contains wilderness characteristics and qualifies for wilderness study.


R.30E.
R.31E.
Punta Culebra de Cascabel
T.9S.
ISLER
GAS
COMPANY
MATHERS
DIABLO
Guide
T.10S.
380
FAP 21
ED
36
31
R.30 E.
R.31 E.
South
R.32 E.
Caprock
AIRCRAFT AID
LERA
TV TOWER
Fourth
T.11S.
MESCALERA 4511'
Mescalero Point
172
FAS 1242
Mescalero Spring
Meridian
East
FORT
060-501
WILLIAMS
New Mexico Proposed Wilderness Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980

Unit Description

Texas Hill Unit 810A is located approximately 39 miles due west of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The unit's western boundary is the Lincoln National Forest border. Topography of 810A is composed of rolling limestone hills cut by numerous drainages. Vegetation is that of the upper Chihuahuan desert.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: The area originally contained 7,520 acres, but boundary adjustments made during the intensive inventory reduced its size to 7,340 acres. There are no private or state inholdings, but the unit nearly surrounds 80 acres of state land and 300 acres of private land.

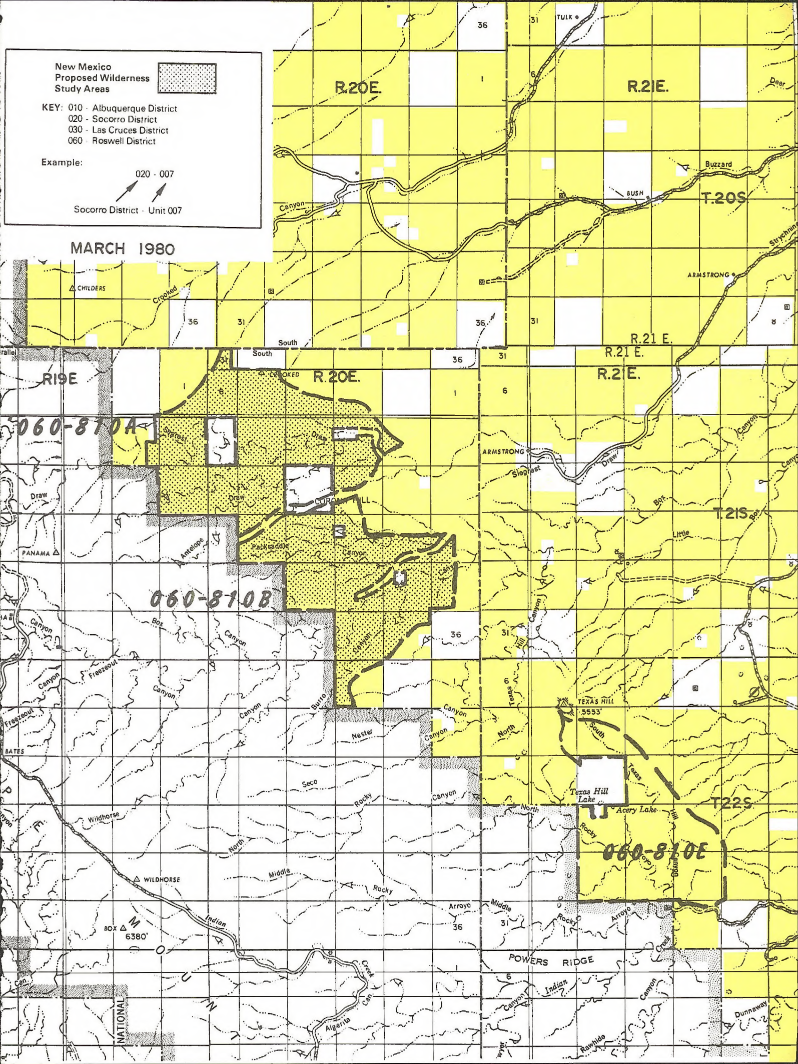
NATURALNESS: 810A generally appears natural. Range developments in the unit consist of two vehicle trails and 9½ miles of barbed wire fences.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: Texas Hill 810A provides an opportunity to find solitude in its many drainages and hillsides. This unit does provide some opportunity for primitive recreation activities, none of which could be considered outstanding due to the unit's size and especially its configuration.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This area contains several cultural sites.

Recommendation

Texas Hill 810A meets the requirements necessary for it to become a Wilderness Study Area.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.20E.
R.21E.
T.20S
T.21S
T22S
R19E
060-810A
060-810B
060-810E
TEXAS HILL
5553'
Texas Hill Lake
Acery Lake
POWERS RIDGE
ARMSTRONG
BUSH
TULK
CHILDERS
PANAMA
WILDHORSE
BATES
BOX 6380'

Unit Description

Texas Hill Unit 810B is located 38 miles due west of Carlsbad, New Mexico. This area is adjacent to Lincoln National Forest-Guadalupe Ranger District. Topography ranges from flat mesa-like hilltops to steeply rolling limestone hills cut by numerous canyons and arroyos.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: Unit 810B originally contained 5,205 acres, but boundary adjustments and a more accurate calculation of its size during the intensive inventory increased this figure to 5,310 acres. In addition, the unit contains an inholding of 40 acres of privately owned land.

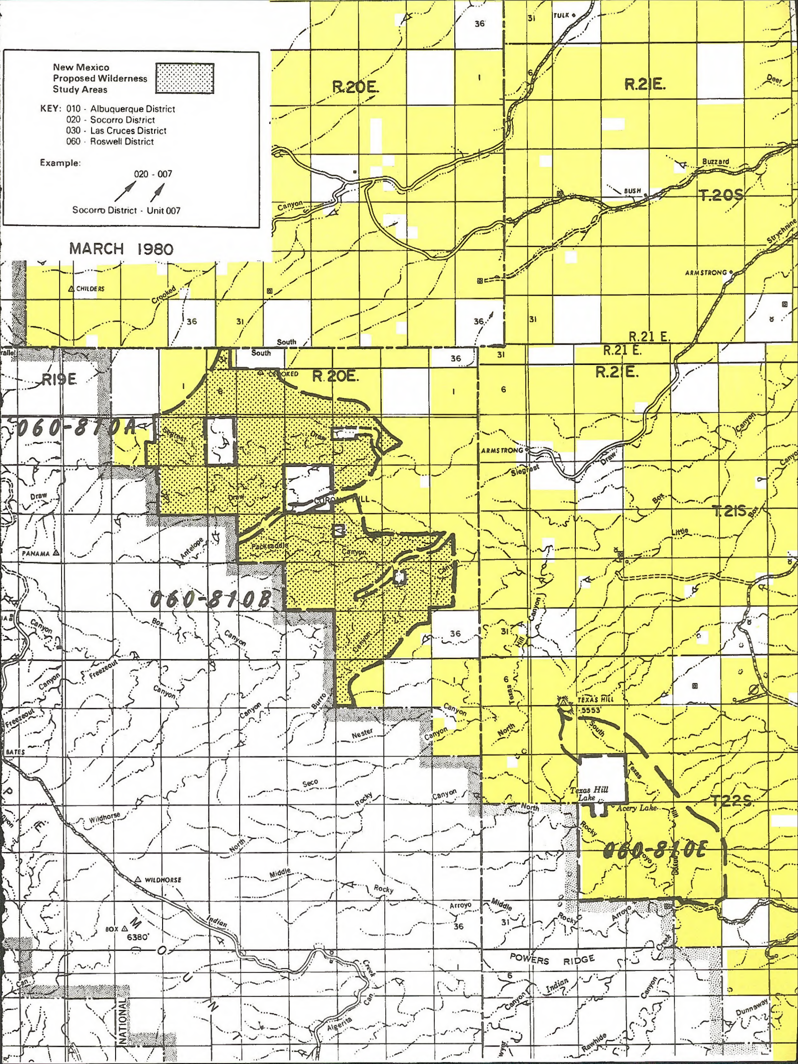
NATURALNESS: The imprints of man are substantially unnoticeable within this area. Imprints in the unit are related to ranching activities and consist of 1 corral, 1 dirt tank, 2 vehicle trails and 9½ miles of barbed wire fences.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: The canyons and arroyos provide areas of solitude in the unit, but a road which almost divides the unit hampers unconfined types of recreation.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: The unit contains numerous cultural sites of archaeological interest.

Recommendation

Unit 810B contains wilderness characteristics and meets the requirements necessary for it to become a Wilderness Study Area.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.20E.
R.21E.
T.20S
R19E
T.21S
T.22S
060-810A
060-810B
060-810E
TEXAS HILL
5553
Texas Hill Lake
Acery Lake
ARMSTRONG
BUSH
TULK
CHILDERS
PANAMA
BATES
WILDHORSE
POWERS RIDGE
NATIONAL

Unit Description

Texas Hill Unit 810E is located 34 miles due west of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Lincoln National Forest forms the southern and western borders of this area. The topography of 810E ranges from flat hilltops in its central core to steeply rolling limestone hills and cliff faces cut by deep drainages along its borders. Vegetation varies from the Chihuahuan desert plant community at lower elevations to pinon-juniper at higher elevations near the western unit boundary.

Wilderness Characteristics

SIZE: This unit originally contained 5,740 acres. During the intensive inventory additional road locations, new boundaries and a more precise acreage calculation reduced the size of this unit to 4,700 acres.

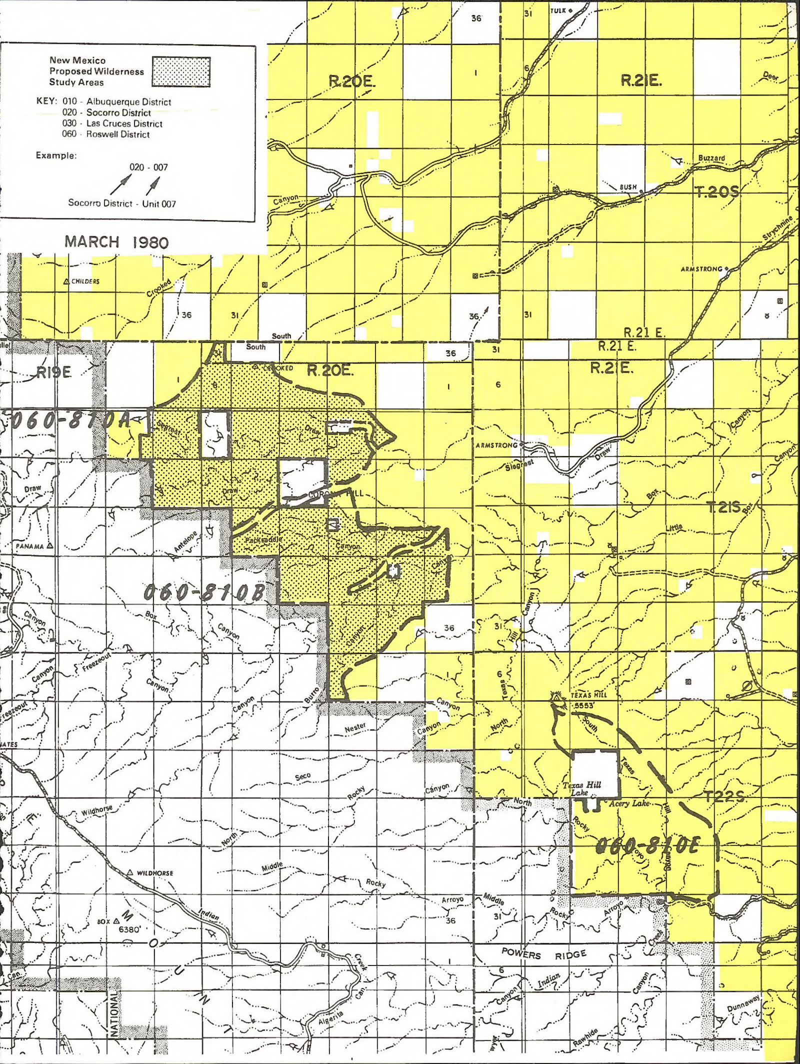
NATURALNESS: This area generally appears natural. It contains range improvements which cumulatively impact the unit's naturalness. Improvements consist of 2 vehicle trails, 1 steel water tank, 1 water tub for livestock and 5 miles of barbed wire fence with 2 more miles along the unit's eastern border.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES: There is only a minimal potential for an individual to have a primitive and unconfined recreational experience due to the unit's small size. The low growing vegetation of the area does little to screen visitors from one another. The physical characteristics of the area's deep drainages and rolling hills does have a screening and buffering affect between visitors, providing an outstanding opportunity for solitude.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: This unit contains numerous cultural sites, caves and scenic vistas.

Recommendation

This unit is recommended to be dropped from further wilderness consideration since it no longer meets the BLM's size requirements.


New Mexico
Proposed Wilderness
Study Areas
KEY: 010 - Albuquerque District
020 - Socorro District
030 - Las Cruces District
060 - Roswell District
Example:
020 - 007
Socorro District - Unit 007
MARCH 1980
R.20E.
R.21E.
T.20S
R19E
R.20E.
R.21 E.
T.21S
T22S
060-810A
060-810B
060-810E
CORONA HILL
TEXAS HILL
5553'
Texas Hill Lake
Acery Lake
POWERS RIDGE
ARMSTRONG
BUSH
TULK
CHILDERS
PANAMA
WILDHORSE
BOX
6380'
NATIONAL

appendix

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS

Terminology specific to the BLM Wilderness Review Process has evolved throughout the inventory process. To facilitate better communication, the following terms elaborate on definitions already given in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook:

Cherry stemming: An unofficial term used to describe the way an inventory unit boundary is drawn to exclude a road that enters the unit; the resulting boundary resembles a cherry stem.

Contiguous Lands: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary. Lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

FLPMA: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which mandated the BLM Wilderness Review. Often referred to and pronounced "FLIPMA."

Initial Inventory: The first step in the BLM wilderness review process. Inventory units or roadless areas which are obviously unsuitable for wilderness are separated from those which warrant intensive inventory for wilderness characteristics.

Instant Study Areas: Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated that all primitive or natural areas formally identified prior to November 1, 1975, will be studied for wilderness suitability and recommended to the President by July 1, 1980. There are three such areas in New Mexico.

Intensive Inventory: The second major step in the BLM wilderness review process. Roadless areas are carefully inventoried for wilderness characteristics. The result of the intensive inventory is the identification of wilderness study areas.

Inventory Unit: Areas or islands of public lands indexed for easy reference at the start of the wilderness inventory. These units may or may not be roadless. A roadless determination requires more detailed field work.

Public Lands: Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- -- lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf
- -- lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
- -- lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but surface is private.

RARE II: The wilderness inventory on lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the United States Forest Service. The acronym stands for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, and the "II" signifies that it is the second time the Forest Service has inventoried and evaluated the lands it administers.

Road: For the purposes of the BLM's wilderness inventory, the following definition is adopted: "The word 'roadless' refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

To clarify this definition, the following subdefinitions also apply:

> "Improved and maintained" - Actions taken physically by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.
>
> "Mechanical means" - Use of hand or power machinery or tools.
>
> "Relatively regular and continuous use" - Vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources; access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

Roadless Area: That area which is roadless, as defined above, and is bounded by a road, the edge of a right-of-way, other land ownership, or a significant imprint of man.

Situation Evaluation: Each wilderness inventory unit, whether roadless or not, has a situation evaluation written for it, describing the roads, size, and general naturalness of the area. These are the file documents associated with the initial inventory and are available at the district and state BLM offices.

Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are wilderness characteristics examined in the intensive wilderness inventory. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude are vegetative screening, topographic relief, vistas and physiographic variety.

Supplemental Values: Features of ecological, geological, or other scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that may be present in an inventory unit. These are not necessary criteria for wilderness suitability, as is stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964, but must be assessed during the intensive wilderness inventory.

Way: A two-wheel track created only by the passsage of vehicles. A "way" is not a road.

Wilderness: The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 is as follows: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimparied condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features or scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Area: An area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Characteristics: Those characteristics of wilderness as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. These include size, naturalness, solitude, primitive or unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values.

Wilderness Inventory: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and a map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under Section 603(a) of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act. The lands meeting the criteria will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's). Those lands identified as not meeting wilderness criteria will be released from further wilderness consideration.

Wilderness Review: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the BLM.

Wilderness Study: The process of analyzing and planning wilderness preservation opportunities along with other resource opportunities within the BLM's planning system.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY SUMMARY TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE III

PROPOSED OR DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS BY COUNTY

These figures reflect present proposed acreages and include both entire units and BLM lands contiguous with roadless areas administered by other agencies.

County	BLM District	Name	Number	Acreage
McKinley	Albuquerque	Ignacio Chavez	NM-010-20	23,928
Torrence	Albuquerque	Manzano	NM-010-92	845
Sandoval	Albuquerque	Ignacio Chavez	NM-010-20	8,320
	Albuquerque	Chamisa	NM-010-21	11,091
	Albuquerque	Cabezon	NM-010-22	8,048
	Albuquerque	Empedrado	NM-010-63	8,419
	Albuquerque	La Lena	NM-010-63A	9,359
				45,237
San Miguel	Albuquerque	Sabinosa	NM-010-55	15,760
Rio Arriba	Albuquerque	Navajo Peak	NM-010-59	7,750
	Albuquerque	San Antonio-West	NM-010-35	7,050
				14,800
Chaves	Roswell	Mescalero Sands	NM-060-501	10,575
Eddy	Roswell	Texas Hill-West	NM-060-810A	7,340
	Roswell	Texas Hill-West	NM-060-810B	5,310
	Roswell	Mudgetts	NM-060-819	2,728*
	Roswell	Mudgetts	NM-060-819A	213
				15,591
Hidalgo	Las Cruces	Black Mountain	NM-030-003	5,800
	Las Cruces	Cowboy Spring	NM-030-007	6,920
	Las Cruces	Gila Box	NM-030-023	8,212*
	Las Cruces	Blue Creek	NM-030-026	11,054
	Las Cruces	Big Hatchet Mountains	NM-030-035	65,950*
	Las Cruces	Alamo Hueco Mountains	NM-030-038	20,840
				118,776

*These are units which have undergone significant boundary adjustments due to a lack of wilderness characteristics.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY SUMMARY TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE III

PROPOSED OR DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS BY COUNTY

County	BLM District	Name	Number	Acreage
Grant	Las Cruces	Gila Box	NM-030-023	818
	Las Cruces	Blue Creek	NM-030-026	2,530
	Las Cruces	Grapevine Spring	NM-030-028	5,200
				8,548
Luna	Las Cruces	Cooke Range	NM-030-031	19,870*
	Las Cruces	Florida Mountains	NM-030-034A	18,904*
	Las Cruces	West Potrillo Mountains	NM-030-052A	9,225*
				47,999
Dona Ana	Las Cruces	Aden Lava Flow	NM-030-053	24,790
	Las Cruces	Mine House Spring	NM-030-074	7,200*
	Las Cruces	West Potrillo Mountains	NM-030-052A	122,520*
				154,510
Lincoln	Las Cruces	Little Black Peak	NM-030-109	15,570
	Las Cruces	Carrizozo Lava Flow-NE	NM-030-110A	11,000*
				26,570
Otero	Las Cruces	Brokeoff Mountains-N	NM-030-112A	13,780*
	Las Cruces	Culp Canyon	NM-030-152	10,937
	Las Cruces	Sacramento Escarpment	NM-030-104B	2,500*
	Las Cruces	Brokeoff Mountains-S	NM-030-112B	9,720*
	Las Cruces	Little Dog Canyon	NM-030-114	4,787*
	Las Cruces	Pup Canyon	NM-030-115	1,920*
	Las Cruces	Rim	NM-030-124	3,853*
	Las Cruces	Bug Scuffle Canyon	NM-030-165	1,830*
				49,327

*These are units which have undergone significant boundary adjustments due to a lack of wilderness characteristics.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY SUMMARY TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE III

PROPOSED OR DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS BY COUNTY

County	BLM District	Name	Number	Acreage
Sierra	Las Cruces	Jornada Lava Flow	NM-030-081	3,659*
Valencia	Socorro	Rimrock (Cebolla Canyon)	NM-020-007	29,430
	Socorro	Sand Canyon	NM-020-008	8,320
	Socorro	Little Rimrock	NM-020-009	9,540
	Socorro	Pinon	NM-020-010	13,160
	Socorro	Petaca Pinta	NM-020-014	12,440*
				72,890
Catron	Socorro	Mesita Blanca	NM-020-018	20,760*
	Socorro	Eagle Peak	NM-020-019	42,500*
	Socorro	Horse Mountain	NM-020-043	5,140
	Socorro	Continental Divide (Pelona Divide)	NM-020-044/45	72,200
				140,600
Socorro	Socorro	Sierra Ladrones	NM-020-016	38,922
	Socorro	Verantio	NM-020-035	7,480
	Socorro	Las Canas	NM-020-038	16,750
	Socorro	Devil's Backbone	NM-020-047A	8,860
	Socorro	Devil's Reach	NM-020-047B	840
	Socorro	Magdalena A	NM-020-048A	3,640*
	Socorro	Magdalena B	NM-020-048B	320
	Socorro	Magdalena C	NM-020-048C	400
	Socorro	Antelope (Little Yucca)	NM-020-053	20,710
	Socorro	Jornada del Muerto	NM-020-055	25,260*
				123,182

*These are units which have undergone significant boundary adjustments due to a lack of wilderness characteristics.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY SUMMARY TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE III

PROPOSED OR DESIGNATED WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS BY COUNTY

Designated Wilderness Study Areas

County	BLM District	Name	Number	Acreage
San Juan	Albuquerque	Bisti	NM-010-057	3,520
	Albuquerque	Denazin	NM-010-004	19,000*
	Albuquerque	Ah-she-sle-pah	NM-010-009	6,000
				28,520

Designated Instant Study Areas

County	BLM District	Name	Acreage
Chaves	Roswell	Mathers	360
Hidalgo	Las Cruces	Guadalupe Canyon	4,146
Valencia	Socorro	El Malpais	115,000
			119,506

*These are units which have undergone significant boundary adjustments due to a lack of wilderness characteristics.

APPENDIX B: COUNTY SUMMARY TABLES

SUMMARY TABLE IV

UNITS IN WHICH A WILDERNESS STUDY AREA RECOMMENDATION IS BEING DEFERRED, BY COUNTY

County	BLM District	Name	Number	Acreage
Socorro	Socorro	Presilla	NM-020-037	9,000
Eddy	Roswell	Lechuguilla Canyon	NM-060-803	1,167
	Roswell	Lonesome Ridge/ Calamity Cove	NM-060-801/814	2,443
	Roswell	Fawn Valley	NM-060-820	700
				4,310
Eddy	Las Cruces	Devil's Den Canyon	NM-030-145	320
	Las Cruces	McKittrick Canyon	NM-030-146	120
				440

APPENDIX C: FEDERAL LAWS

FEDERAL LAWS DIRECTING THE BLM WILDERNESS REVIEW

There are two laws directing the BLM's wilderness review program: the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the BLM to review all roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more for wilderness values and report, through the Secretary and the President, its recommendations to Congress. During this review the BLM is directed to manage these areas so that wilderness values are not impaired. The exact Congressional wording is quoted below:

> *"Sec. 603.(a) Within fifteen years after the date of approval of this Act, the Secretary shall review those roadless areas of five thousand acres or more and roadless islands of the public lands, identified during the inventory required by Section 201(a) of this Act as having wilderness characteristics described in the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 . . . and shall from time to time report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness: Provided, That prior to any recommendations for the designation of an area as wilderness the Secretary shall cause mineral surveys to be conducted by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present in such areas . . . .*
>
> *(c) During the period of review of such areas and until Congress has determined otherwise, the Secretary shall continue to manage such lands according to his authority under this Act and other applicable law in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness, subject, however, to the continuation of existing mining and grazing uses and mineral leasing in the manner and degree in which the same was being conducted on the date of approval of this Act: Provided, That in managing the public lands the Secretary shall by regulation or otherwise take any action required to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and their resources or to afford environmental protection."*

APPENDIX C: FEDERAL LAWS

The Wilderness Act of 1964 outlined Congress' policy concerning what a wilderness is. The BLM will be reviewing the public lands to see if these values do or do not exist. Congress' exact wording follows:

> *"Sec. 2.*
>
> *(c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific educational, scenic, or historical values."*

These two laws, and these provisions in particular, are the basis for the BLM's wilderness program.

APPENDIX D: PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDE

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS INVENTORY

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDE

The back cover of this book is arranged to assist you in making comments about BLM's WSA proposals. The following guide will help you provide BLM accurate information.

REMEMBER:

During the Initial Inventory which involved field checks and a public review, inventory units were identified which may have been roadless, of adequate size, and could possess wilderness characteristics. These are the inventory units about which you are now commenting. An inventory unit will be designated a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) if, in addition to being roadless and of adequate size, it has wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, as required by Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. These wilderness characteristics are listed below and on the back page with a space for your comments. Information on how these factors are evaluated by the BLM are found in the Public Involvement section of this book and in the BLM Wilderness Inventory Handbook, dated September 1978.

PLEASE NOTE:

Other resource values and potential conflicts are not a consideration in the designation of Wilderness Study Areas. These considerations will be addressed during the study phase of the wilderness review, which will begin after September 1980.

The following items refer to the comment sheet on the back of this book:

1. Please list the specific inventory unit number of the area about which you are making comments.

2. Please list your name and address.

3. Naturalness

   Does the area generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable? Why?

4. Solitude, or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

   Do outstanding opportunities for either exist? Why?

5. Supplemental Values

Does the unit contain ecological, geological, or other values? (The presence of supplemental values is not a prerequisite for an area to qualify as a WSA.)

6. Reclamation

Can the imprints of man in the unit be reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition? How?

7. Roadless and Size

Is the unit roadless and 5,000 acres in size, or does the unit contain a parcel of public land which is roadless, less than 5,000 acres in size, and a manageable unit which can be preserved in an unimpaired condition?

8. Additional Comments

Any additional comments, please include them on this page.

New Mexico State Office
Federal & Post Office Bldg.
P. O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Telephone (505) 988-6243
State Director: Arthur W. Zimmerman
Wilderness Specialist: Dan Wood

Albuquerque District Office
3550 Pan American Freeway, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107
Telephone (505) 766-2455
District Manager: L. Paul Applegate
Wilderness Specialist: Randy Botkin

Socorro District Office
200 Neel Avenue, NW
Socorro, New Mexico 87801
Telephone (505) 835-0412
District Manager: Arlen P. Kennedy
Wilderness Specialist: Kent Carlton

Las Cruces District Office
1705 North Valley Drive
P. O. Box 1420
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001
Telephone (505) 523-5571
District Manager: Daniel C.B. Rathbun
Wilderness Specialist: Gary Marsh

Roswell District Office
1717 W. Second Street
Featherstone Farms Street
P. O. Box 1397
Telephone (505) 622-7670
District Manager: James H. O'Connor
Wilderness Specialist: Buzz Hummel

March 1980

☆GPO 1980—678-374/369

Form 1279-3
(June 1984)

QH
76.5
.N6
N49
1980

BORROWER

Wilderness study ar
State Office.

DATE LOANED	BORROWER

USDI - BLM

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LIBRARY, D-245A
BLDG. 50, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, CO 80225

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

1. From ______________________________
Name

____
Address

____

2. ______________________________
Inventory Unit Number

____
Date ______________________________

Please refer to comment guide before completing this page.
You may duplicate this form if commenting on more than one area.

3. Naturalness:

4. Solitude:

5. Supplemental Values:

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS - Study Area Proposals
Interior-BLM- NMSO

6. Reclamation: (Please refer to Comment Guide)

7. Roadless and size:

8. Additional comments:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 1449
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT 415

U.S. MAIL

WILDERNESS
Bureau of Land Management (912)
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, NM 87501